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# 1. Centro de Studios Europeos

**Special consultative status granted in 1996**

The Centro de Studios Europeos (CEE) is a non-profit organization whose major aim is to work for the mutual understanding between Cuba and Europe. Its activities include research, publications, and the organization of conferences, seminars and workshops, as a framework for debating the main economic, social and political problems facing Europe and its international interaction with other geographical areas, particularly Latin America and Cuba.

CEE contributes to the development of a community of professionals interested in a social science approach to contemporary Europe and to its international relations by promoting relations between the organizations of the European and Cuban civil societies. CEE also promotes and supports the participation of the organizations of Cuban civil society in conferences, seminars and workshops organized by the United Nations and other organizations sharing the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

## Participation in conferences and international meetings organized by the United Nations

CEE representatives participated in the following meetings:

(a) National Preparatory Committee for the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and the NGO Forum held before and during the Conference (Istanbul, May 1996). CEE organized a seminar on the present Cuban reality from an NGO perspective and attended meetings of the Committee in charge of preparing an NGO position and of various workshops;

(b) National Preparatory Committee for the World Food Summit (Rome, 1996). CEE attended the FAO/NGO consultation held at FAO headquarters in September 1996 and the NGO Forum held in Rome during the Conference;

(c) Fifty-third, fifty-fourth and fifty-fifth sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (1997, 1998 and 1999). CEE made oral contributions on various items and made a written contribution on Item 10 in 1998 (E/CN.4/1998/NGO/12);

(d) NGO Forum at the follow-up to the World Conference on Human Rights (Ottawa, June 1998);

(e) Annual meetings of the Economic Commission for Europe (Geneva, 1997 and 1998);

(f) Meetings of the national preparatory committees for the follow-up to the World Social Summit (1999) and the Millennium Summit (2000), also contributing to them with written papers;

(g) International seminar on "Humanitarian international rights", organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross, the National Union of Lawyers of Cuba and the Cuban Red Cross (9-11 March 1998), presenting a paper on "Armed conflicts, international humanitarian rights and NGOs". It was later published.

CEE also co-sponsored, on 24-25 September 1998, an international seminar/workshop on the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human

Rights. From 25 to 29 May 1999 CEE representatives participated in Havana in a seminar on the legal protection of the refugees and other population groups.

### Other activities to promote cooperation for development

CEE coordinated the activities of the Preparatory Committee of Cuban non-governmental organizations which participated in the Conference on Cooperation with Cuba, held at the European Parliament's headquarters (Brussels, March 1996). The European Commission co-sponsored the Conference, and 48 non-governmental organizations from 12 European countries attended. CEE also contributed two papers: "NGOs in Cuba" and "The role of NGOs in human resource capacity-building".

CEE organized the International Conferences on European Studies in Cuba, in 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999, to promote cooperation and an exchange of views between Cuban and European academic institutions on topics relevant to the United Nations. They have focused on conflict trends and resolution, international cooperation for development, integration and globalization. Scholars and specialists from institutions worldwide have attended the conferences.

The CEE coordinated the activities of the Cuban Preparatory Committee for the Second International Meeting on Cooperation with Cuba (Havana, 7-10 December 1999), with the sponsorship of the European Commission. Representatives from more than 70 European non-governmental organizations attended the Meeting as well as 17 from Latin America and the Caribbean, four from North America and 50 from Cuba.

CEE has uninterruptedly published its monthly bulleting *Mensaje de Cuba*, in Spanish and English. It is the only publication in the country reflecting the national and international activities of Cuban non-governmental organizations.

## 2. European Federation of Older Students at Universities

#### Special consultative status granted in 1996

The main mission of the European Federation of Older Students at Universities (EFOS) is to support education for older people at the highest level possible, preferably at universities in Europe. Actual members come from the following European countries: Austria, Czech Republic, Switzerland, Belgium, France, Germany, Poland and Slovakia.

EFOS defends the basic human right of education which should be available to all without discrimination of age. It sees education as a fundamental request for social development. Elderly or/and retired persons should not be excluded from this process. The status of older persons is different in the various European countries. We therefore meet regularly and keep close contact to find out and pass on the best ways to promote our aims in close cooperation with the younger generation of students.

EFOS participates in various United Nations bodies. It is a member of the NGO Committee on Ageing (Vienna), of which the vice-chair is the current president of EFOS. Members of the Committee meet from 5 to 7 times a year. In

recent years, the work of the Committee has been shaped by the International Year of Older Persons, 1999 — its preparation, celebration and follow-up.

The common concern of EFOS and the Committee on Ageing is to foster the participation of Eastern European countries such as Czech Republic, Slovakia and Poland, in projects in the field of ageing and education.

EFOS cooperates with the European Federation of the Elderly (EURAG) and cooperates with the Association internationale des universités du troisième age (AIUTA).

In 1998 and 1999 EFOS participated in task forces set up by the Austrian National Committee for the International Year of Older Persons.

Currently EFOS is working on preparations for the second World Assembly on Ageing to take place in April 2002. It is also preparing for the International Year of Volunteers, since EFOS staff are exclusively volunteers.

We would like to affirm our will as a non-governmental organization to cooperate fully for the needs and aspirations of societies for all ages.

## 3. Fraternite Notre Dame

**Special consultative status granted in 1996**

### Aims and purposes of the organization

Fraternite Notre Dame is a traditional Catholic, religious and humanitarian organization which helps persons in need, with no distinction of race, class, sex or belief and which works in the United States (New York, Chicago), Africa (Niger, Cameroon), Asia (Mongolia, China), and Europe (France). It runs soup kitchens, dispensaries, hospitals, schools and orphanages, offers help to the sick with AIDS, arranges visits to prisoners and the elderly, and offers aid to countries in distress.

Fraternite Notre Dame has been associated with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations since January 1994. It has had Correspondent status with UNICEF since March 1996, has been a member of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGO) since August 1997 and is a member of the Committee of Religious NGOS at the United Nations.

Fraternite Notre Dame's members attempt to be instruments of peace and unity and sow the charity of Christ to all those who suffer either in their hearts or in their bodies.

### Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and conferences and in other United Nations meetings

Fraternite Notre Dame follows the work of the Council and other United Nations bodies, especially in New York and in Geneva.

In New York it attended the following sessions of Council bodies:

(a) 8-10 February 1999: Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, twenty-first session;

(b) 9-19 February 1999: Commission for Social Development, thirtieth session;

(c) 22-23 February 1999: NGO Values Caucus: Consultative Council of the Millennium Forum;

(d) 15-18 March 1999: Committee on Human Rights;

(e) 1-19 March 1999: Commission on the Status of Women, forty-third session;

(f) 6 April 1999: UNESCO: "Year of Thanksgiving, Year for a Cultural Peace: 2000";

(g) 12-30 April 1999: Commission on Sustainable Development, seventh session;

(h) 10-14 May 1999: Commission on Human Rights;

(i) 1-18 June 1999: Committee on NGOs;

(j) 7-25 June 1999: Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, twenty-first session;

(k) 15-17 September 1999: Fifty-second Annual Conference for NGOs associated with the Department of Public Information;

(l) 17 November 1999: Conference on Malaria.

In Geneva, Fraternite Notre Dame attended the following:

(a) 1-31 August 1997: Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, forty-ninth session, oral intervention and presentation of a text to the Subcommission;

(b) November 1997: Twentieth General Assembly of CONGO;

(c) 2 March to 20 April 1998: Commission on Human Rights, fifty-fourth session; intervention on children's rights;

(d) 3-28 August 1998: Commission on Human Rights, fiftieth session; on the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights;

(e) 22-30 April 1999: Commission on Human Rights, fifty-fifth session; statements on religious discrimination.

Fraternite Notre Dame took part in the following international conferences:

(a) 12-23 February 1996: Preparatory Committee for HABITAT II, in New York;

(b) 3-14 June 1996: HABITAT II in Istanbul, with presentation of Fraternite Notre Dame's activities, under the theme "A house for all" at the NGO Forum;

(c) 10-15 October 1999: International Conference organized in Seoul by the non-governmental organizations and the University of Seoul: "Achieving our Vision for the 21st Century".

## Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

(a) Cameroon, September 1997: donation from UNICEF of school supplies; November 1997: food donations (oil, rice, pasta, canned fish) from WFP, FAO;

(b) 1998-1999: consultations with UNESCO and UNICEF for Fraternite Notre Dame school programmes;

(c) Niger, from December 1996 to 1999, consultation and collaboration with UNICEF and UNDP for feeding programmes, orphanages, care for lepers, requests for mosquito nets;

(d) Mongolia, from 1996 to 1997, consultations and collaboration with UNDP, UNICEF and WHO for health care programmes in hospitals for the poor and for the feeding programme for homeless people;

(e) Caribbean, collaboration with UNICEF. In 1996, donation of 500 children's school kits and plywood sheets. In 1997, donation of a water tank of 9,000 gallons. Donation of school books and several tons of food by WFP and FAO in 1996;

(f) Participation in a seminar on street children, organized by UNESCO;

(g) 1998/1999: collaboration with the United Nations peacekeeping forces of Argentina which helped to build Fraternite Notre Dame's orphanage in the Port au Prince suburbs and gave food regularly to the orphanage;

(h) Kosovo, April to June 1999: health support and general support to the refugees in the camps. Work in collaboration with UNICEF and UNHCR (distribution of children's supplies to orphans and refugees). Health care support in collaboration with the United Nations peacekeeping forces in Topoje, Tirana and Durres.

## Other relevant activities

(a) Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat and other United Nations representatives and mission representatives;

(b) New York, 1996 and 1997: contact with Ms. Sorensen, Assistant to the Secretary-General for External Relations;

(c) 7 June 2000: comments and questionnaire of Fraternite Notre Dame to Ms. Sorensen on the report of the Secretary-General on arrangements and practices for the interaction of non-governmental organizations in all activities of the United Nations;

(d) Numerous contacts in New York with ambassadors or mission representatives to the United Nations, including the missions of Cameroon, Haiti, Mongolia, Niger, South Africa, Benin, Brazil, China, Liberia, Madagascar, Pakistan and Romania. Representatives from these countries asked Fraternite Notre Dame's Superior to open humanitarian centres in their countries for the most destitute. Such plans are under study;

(e) Fraternite Notre Dame's newsletter is read by many thousands of readers around the world. Many articles are focused on United Nations concerns.

# 4. Friends World Committee for Consultation

**Special consultative status granted in 1948**

The central principle of the work of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC), undertaken on behalf of Quakers (the Religious Society of Friends) through its standing offices in New York and Geneva and through other representatives, is facilitation of international activity which promotes a more peaceful and humane world through the United Nations and other international organizations.

FWCC was established in 1937 as a means of communication and combined action for yearly meetings (autonomous groups) of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). There are currently some 70 yearly meetings, as well as smaller groups, affiliated to FWCC. During the period under review, new yearly meetings in East Africa and Central America became affiliated. (This report does not cover yearly meeting activities or activities of FWCC which do not have a direct relation to its function as a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Council.)

FWCC maintains resident representatives in New York and Geneva and also appoints other representatives to conferences and similar events, as a means of implementing the Quaker religious commitment to peace, social justice and the fullness of humanity. The major sources of income for FWCC continue to be contributions from affiliated bodies, individuals and trusts. The New York office is managed and substantially funded by American Friends Service Committee, an independent Quaker organization in the United States, and the Geneva office, by Quaker Peace and Service, a part of the yearly meeting of Friends in Great Britain. Both offices also receive funding from other Quaker groups, individuals and trusts, and from some Governments. Such funds are received on the understanding that the donors do not direct the activities of the offices.

## Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and other United Nations bodies

Representatives in New York regularly observe meetings of the General Assembly, the Disarmament Commission, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the Security Council, and a number of their subsidiary bodies. Staff in Geneva observe meetings of the Commission on Human Rights, the Conference on Disarmament, the Executive Committee of UNHCR, human rights treaty bodies, the World Trade Organization and its Committee on Trade and the Environment, the International Labour Organization, and a number of their subsidiary bodies. Other representatives regularly attend the meetings of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Special events attended include: (1996) Fourth Review Conference on the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention; World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, Singapore; (1999) Preparatory Committee for Financing for Development; World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference, Seattle.

FWCC made statements at the following meetings:

(a) 1996. Fourth Review Conference on the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention; Commission on Human Rights, re legal principles for internally displaced persons;

(b) 1997. Commission on Human Rights, re the prevention of recruitment of children (oral), minimum humanitarian standards, ill-treatment of recruits, the right of conscientious objection (written);

(c) 1998. Oral statement to the General Debate of the Working Group on an Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); statement to the International Criminal Court Preparatory Committee, re Quaker involvement in ICC issues;

(d) 1999. Statement to the Ad Hoc Open-Ended Working Group on Financing for Development, re dialogue with non-governmental organizations.

## Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies, and other relevant activities

The FWCC offices in both Geneva and New York organized a wide variety of colloquia, conferences, lunchtime meetings and other informal meetings for United Nations staff, diplomats and representatives of non-governmental organizations. Some of these were preparatory or offered as a follow-up to the conferences attended. Others related to the following topics which staff have been monitoring and analysing: reform of the United Nations, in particular of the Security Council; the Convention to Combat Desertification; the Commission on Sustainable Development; a global approach to and sustainable management for forests; freshwater; broad issues of peacemaking, peacekeeping and disarmament; conversion of military resources to civilian use; arms control and disarmament (for delegates to the Conference on Disarmament, 1996); codes of conduct in the sale and transfer of conventional arms; anti-personnel landmines; controls on small arms/light weapons; peace-building in war-torn societies; the Nuclear Non-proliferation Preparatory Committee and the Model Nuclear Weapons Disarmament Convention, 1997; trade and the environment; labour rights; the Multilateral Agreement on investment, 1997; child soldiers; conscientious objection; refugees, internally displaced persons and asylum laws; empowerment of women and their advancement in the social and economic fabric of societies; rights of indigenous peoples, in particular the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples; (1998) promoting ILO Core Labour Conventions; codes of conduct and discrimination in export processing zones in Honduras; economic sanctions and their humanitarian effects; financing for development; the place of forest issues in the United Nations; preparation for the Conference on Racism in 2001; civilian roles in peacekeeping and non-military alternatives in humanitarian crises, especially in Africa; control of small arms and light weapons.

A Geneva staff member, Rachel Brett, contributed to the Machel study of the impact of armed conflict on children and addressed a follow-up meeting of the Geneva Humanitarian Working Group. She presented a paper "Minimum humanitarian standards" to a workshop in Cape Town and a seminar on International Humanitarian Law (1996), and helped to organize and made presentations to a

UNICEF/NGO workshop and symposium on child soldiers in Africa, in Cape Town, which produced the Cape Town Principles and Best Practice on the prevention of recruitment, demobilization and social reintegration of child soldiers. She drafted an optional protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, relating to the minimum age for recruitment. The work on child soldiers has been published as *Children: The Invisible Soldiers* (Rachel Brett and Margart McCallin; Rädda Barnen, 1996). The New York office is involved in a study of the demobilization of adolescent girl soldiers.

Major residential, unofficial consultations with diplomats, secretariat staff and others were held on Security Council reform (1998), and small arms (1998). The Quaker Forest Colloquium III was held in 1999.

Visits to New York and Geneva, including meetings with United Nations staff, diplomats and non-governmental organizations, were arranged for Quakers and their contacts who have recent experience of various regions of interest, including Chechnya, Honduras, Angola, Colombia and the Great Lakes region of Africa.

Both FWCC offices produce newsletters, reports, briefing papers and booklets for circulation to United Nations staff, diplomats, Quakers, academics and other concerned persons and bodies. Reports on the work are published in Quaker and other periodicals, and staff regularly travel to interpret their work and that of the United Nations to Quaker groups and other groups. Young people become familiar with United Nations procedures and issues through the intern programme at both offices, the regular summer school in Geneva, and the developing summer school in New York. A joint web site links the New York and Geneva offices and serves as a growing source of information for constituents.

## 5. International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates

**Special consultative status granted in 1952**

### Aim and objects

The aim of the International Association of Youth and Family Judges and Magistrates (formerly the International Association of Juvenile and Family Court Magistrates) is to promote and encourage the establishment of youth and family justice systems which protect the universal principles of dignity and human rights of children and families. The main objects of the Association are to establish links between judges, magistrates and specialists from all over the world who are attached to a judicial authority, concerned with the protection of youth and the family; to examine legislation designed for the protection of youth and the family and to study, at the international level, all problems raised by the functioning of judicial authorities and bodies in this field; to ensure the continuance of the national and international principles governing those authorities and to make them more widely known.

## Membership

The Association's membership is drawn from around the world. At the time of the previous report, the bulk of the members were drawn from Europe. This is no longer the case. Membership is drawn from all five continents, and the majority of members are non-European. The national members are Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, England, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Switzerland, Taiwan, Province of China, Tunisia and United States of America. National members are registered as single entities and are not required to provide a breakdown of their membership.

## Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

Two Association members worked with the United Nations Centre on Human Rights in Geneva in the preparation of a training manual on human rights for judges and lawyers and took responsibility for a chapter on the administration of juvenile justice.

The Association has appointed representatives to the United Nations in Vienna, Geneva and New York, and to the Council of Europe in Strasbourg and The Hague. These members represent the Association at relevant meetings, seminars and conferences. The Geneva representative chairs the Group of NGOs on the Rights of the Child and is involved in conferences and seminars in many parts of the developing world.

The Deputy Secretary-General chairs the Alliance of Vienna-based NGOs. She has worked with the Centre for International Crime Prevention at the United Nations Office in Vienna in the drafting of a model law on juvenile justice. She was recently nominated international judge for penal affairs in Kosovo by UNMIK.

The President of the Association was invited to Bhutan to participate in the drafting of new legislation and in the setting up of a new court system.

The Vice-President was invited by the Council of Europe to assist with a series of seminars in Kosovo for the retraining of judges. He has been working closely with UNICEF to develop a range of projects in the Russian Federation. He has visited South Africa to promote the inclusion of the Convention on the Rights of the Child in new legislation concerning children.

The Treasurer has been working closely with the authorities in Tunisia in promoting the Convention on the Rights of the Child and in spreading the message to other North African (French-speaking) countries.

The Secretary-General has been involved in a project in Viet Nam aimed at training lawyers and advocates in international legislation concerning children's rights.

## Sponsorship of meetings and seminars

The Association was involved in the following seminars and conferences: Palermo, 1996, Minors and Justice; Turin, 1996, Mediation; Stockholm, 1996, The Sexual Exploitation of Children; Panama, 1996, The Ninth World Congress on

Family Law; Sion, Switzerland, 1996, The Rights of the Child; Naples, 1997, Criminal Organisations and the Exploitation of Children; Sion, Switzerland, 1997, Children and Work; Iguazú, 1997, The first MERCOSUR Congress on Juvenile and Family Justice; London, 1998, Family Violence; Sion, Switzerland, 1998, A Champion at Any Cost: The Rights of the Child in Sport; Buenos Aires, 1998, 15th Congress of the International Association Of Youth And Family Judges And Magistrates: Social Change and Youth: New Challenges Facing Justice, Politics and Society; Avignon, 1999, Foster Care in Europe; Chicago, 1999, A Juvenile Justice System for the 21st Century; Tunis, 1999, Nos enfants A L'Orée Du XXIème siècle; Sion, 1999, 100 Years of Juvenile Justice.

## 6. International Council on Social Welfare

**General consultative status granted in 1972**

The International Council on Social Welfare (ICSW) is a global alliance of civil society organizations promoting social welfare, social development and social justice. Its membership consists of global, regional, national and local organizations in more than 80 countries in every region of the world. It undertakes policy development, advocacy and capacity-building for its own members and other civil society organizations.

During the period 1996-1999 ICSW gave high priority to preparing for the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in 1995 and then to pursuing implementation of the agreements made at the Summit. It also advocated specific implementation action at global United Nations meetings (especially of the Economic and Social Council and the Commission for Social Development), at all regional United Nations meetings on Summit implementation in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America, and at other intergovernmental and non-governmental gatherings.

Since the Copenhagen Summit, ICSW has drawn on its extensive network of members and other non-governmental organizations to monitor progress with implementation, to develop proposals for achieving further progress, and to stimulate advocacy of those proposals. Its principal activities have included:

### Activities

ICSW convened numerous global and regional civil society forums on Summit implementation involving more than 1,000 participants in 22 meetings worldwide. They include:

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| 11 November 1999 | CSO Forum on Social Development<br>Durban, South Africa |
| 26-28 October 1999 | Central Asia Social Development Forum<br>Baku, Azerbaijan |
| 2-4 October 1999 | South Asia Social Development Forum<br>Kathmandu, Nepal |

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| 14-15 September 1999 | Asia and Pacific Social Development Forum<br>Sydney, Australia |
| 10-12 September 1999 | Pacific Islands Social Development Forum<br>Sydney, Australia |
| 16 May 1999 | CSO Forum on Social Development<br>New York |
| 13-15 March 1999 | East and Southern Africa Social Development Forum<br>Nairobi, Kenya |
| 1-2 December 1998 | Central America Social Development Forum<br>Guatemala City, Guatemala |
| 8-9 November 1998 | Arab States Social Development Forum<br>Amman, Jordan |
| 5-6 November 1998 | European Social Development Forum<br>Paris, France |
| 9 February 1998 | CSO Forum on Social Development<br>New York |
| 8 February 1998 | CSO Forum on Social Development<br>New York |
| 27 November-1 December 1997 | Francophone Africa Social Development Forum<br>Tunis, Tunisia |
| 12-13 November 1997 | CSO Forum on Summit Follow-up<br>Rio de Janeiro, Brazil |
| 16-19 October 1997 | European Regional Symposium<br>Copenhagen, Denmark |
| 8-13 September 1997 | West Africa Social Development Forum<br>Accra, Ghana |
| 8-10 September 1997 | Asia and the Pacific Social Development Forum<br>Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| 7-12 July 1997 | East and Southern Africa Social Development Forum<br>Harare, Zimbabwe |
| 5 April 1997 | Latin America and Caribbean Social Development Forum<br>Sao Paulo, Brazil |
| 24 February 1997 | CSO Forum on Social Development<br>New York |

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| 20-23 November 1996 | Asia and Pacific Social Development Forum<br>Christchurch, New Zealand |
| 13-17 May 1996 | Southern Africa Social Development Forum<br>Gaborone, Botswana |

In addition to these meetings on the follow-up to the Copenhagen Summit, ICSW attended the two United Nations Preparatory Committee meetings for the five-year review of the World Summit for Social Development (New York, 17-28 May 1999 and 30 August-3 September 1999). ICSW made oral and written statements at both meetings and organized civil society briefings before and during the United Nations sessions.

ICSW attended the sessions of the Commission for Social Development during the period 1996-1999 and organized a series of civil society briefing meetings before and during the session meetings. ICSW regularly attended the sessions of the Economic and Social Council.

## Publications

ICSW published articles on Summit implementation in its quarterly journal, *Social Development Review*; a series of policy papers and reports of the civil society forums, entitled *Copenhagen Papers*; a newsletter for civil society organizations, *Copenhagen + 5*, and a social development web site (www.icsw.org).

The following issues of *Social Development Review* were produced in 1996-1999:

Thematic supplement: Eradication of Poverty (August 1996)

Thematic supplement: Productive Employment (December 1996)

Thematic supplement: Social Integration (March 1997)

The Face of Poverty: Building a New Profile (June 1997)

Creating an Enabling Environment (September 1997)

Towards a Holistic Approach to Human Rights (December 1997)

Balancing Economic and Social Development (March 1998)

A Closer Look at Globalisation (June 1998)

Opening the Door to the Socially Excluded (September 1998)

A Social Safety Net for All? (December 1998)

Revealing a New Global Economy (March 1999)

Copenhagen +5: Reading the Signposts (June 1999)

Breaking the Chains of Debt (September 1999)

The WTO: the Whole World in its Hand (December 1999)

*Social Development Review* contains a regular two-page article prepared by the Division for Social Policy and Development of the United Nations Secretariat.

The *Copenhagen Papers* on the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development consisted of the following:

No. 1. Implementing the Copenhagen Commitments (also available in Spanish)

No. 2. Civil Society Reports on Poverty (New York, February 1999)

No. 3. A European Regional Forum on Social Development (Paris, 5-6 November 1998) (also available in French)

No. 4. An Arab States Forum on Social Development (Amman, 8-9 November 1998)

No. 5. A Central American Regional Forum on Social Development (Guatemala City, 30 November-2 December 1998) (also available in Spanish)

No. 6. An East and Southern African Regional Forum on Social Development (Mbagathi, Nairobi, 13-14 March 1999)

No. 7. A Pacific Islands Regional Forum on Social Development (Sydney, 11-12 September 1999)

No. 8. A South Asian Regional Forum on Social Development (Kathmandu, 2-4 October 1999)

No. 9. A Central Asian and Trans-Caucasus Regional Forum on Social Development (Baku, 26-28 October 1999) (also available in Russian)

During 1999 ICSW produced three editions of the *Copenhagen +5 Newsletter* which provided information for civil society organizations about preparations for the United Nations five-year review of conference commitments.

## 7. International Council of Prison Medical Services

**General consultative status granted in 1996**

The International Council of Prison Medical Services (ICPMS) aims to promote good practice in all aspects of health care in prisons, worldwide, by facilitating international discourse, mutual support and the dissemination of information between health care professionals and international and national interested bodies. It therefore arranges conferences, organizes training, and provides guidelines and standards, based on United Nations standards; and gives advice on monitoring the quality of health care in prisons.

### Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

The ICPMS Vice-President to the United Nations attended the meetings of the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as an observer on a regular basis from 1992, and then, after consultative status was granted (1996), as a Member. He participated in the Prison Health Project which included the publication of health care standards for jails and prisons. He was also active in meetings of the

Alliance's Working Party on Restorative Justice, whose recommendations were presented and adopted at the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders, in Vienna in April 2000.

The ICPMS Vice-President to the United Nations is also a member of the NGO Committee on Narcotics and Substance Abuse, and regularly attends its meetings at United Nations Headquarters.

The Secretary-General of ICPMS attended an induction meeting for new non-governmental organizations in Geneva in 1998.

## Activities

### Reviews of health care services to prisons

In 1997 the Secretary-General and members of ICPMS undertook, at the request of the Council of Europe, reviews of the health care services to prisons of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Recommendations for reform were agreed with the governmental departments responsible for prisons and for health care. Progress has been monitored through regular meetings arranged by the Council of Europe. In addition, international contacts between prison health care personnel have been promoted and developed through the ICPMS network.

In 1999 a review by members of ICPMS was undertaken in Armenia. The recommendations from the review are being actioned by means of liaisons developed between the Council of Europe, ICPMS, and Prison Service International.

In 1999 a review by the Secretary-General and members of ICPMS was undertaken in Albania. The recommendations from the review are being jointly actioned by the Council of Europe and ICPMS.

In 1998 the Secretary-General of ICPMS undertook, at the request of the British Embassy in Caracas, a review of the health care services to prisons in Venezuela.

The treasurer of ICPMS undertook reviews of the prison systems of Trinidad and Tobago, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

The treasurer of ICPMS undertook a review of the Juvenile Re-educational Institutions in El Salvador.

### Study visits

The Secretary-General and members of ICPMS arranged study visits for prison health care staff from Eastern European countries to the United Kingdom, Germany and Denmark.

### Training course

A training course, the first of its kind ever held, was organized by the Secretary-General of ICPMS and delivered to prison staff in Albania in 1998, a year prior to the health care review.

**Congress on Violence**

In March 1998 ICPMS joined with the International Conference on the Treatment of Sex Offenders, the World Psychiatric Association, the World Legal Medical Association, the Asociación Latinamerica de Medicina Legal y Deontologia Medica, and Asociación Mundial de Sexologia in organizing a World Congress in Caracas, Venezuela, on the theme of violence. The Congress, attended by some 560 delegates, closed with the issue of the Declaration of Venezuela. All aspects of violence, including those perpetrated by Governments, societies, and individuals, were covered at the Congress. Much emphasis was placed on reducing violence in society by respecting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and on reducing violence in prisons, which are particularly violent places in some parts of the world, by respecting the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Treatment of Prisoners. The proceedings of the Congress have been published.

## 8. International Federation of Human Rights

**Special consultative status granted in 1952**

The International Federation of Human Rights (IFHR) was founded in 1922. Its objective, since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948, has been to work for the concrete implementation of the Declaration. During the past 50 years, as a non-governmental organization recognized by the United Nations since 1952, it has greatly expanded its activities, sending missions to many countries, systematizing legal cooperation and training programmes with local partners in recent years and working with international institutions. At its thirty-third congress, held in Dakar from 20 to 23 November 1997, the Federation's international network was greatly expanded and currently comprises 105 member organizations, including 64 affiliates and 41 corresponding leagues in 86 countries. A list of those organizations appears in the annex to this report.

Some of the themes which IFHR considered to be priorities for action during the period under review and which guided its work within the United Nations system are: combating impunity, implementing economic and social rights, guaranteeing women's rights as fundamental human rights and protecting human rights defenders.

The Federation's permanent delegations to the United Nations in Geneva and New York have allowed for daily monitoring of its activities relating to the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies.

### Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

IFHR has continued to participate actively in the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights (fifty-second to fifty-fifth sessions) and of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (forty-eighth to fifty-first sessions), and in the working groups created by those bodies. During the sessions, the IFHR delegation was made up of representatives of its member organizations and officials

and deputies of its leadership bodies. IFHR seeks to facilitate access by national human rights organizations to the work of those bodies.

Up to 1997, the sessions of the Commission and the subcommission provided important informational and training opportunities for officials of the Federation's member organizations, who are active at the field level. Accordingly, training seminars were also organized. Their purpose was to promote dialogue and cooperation between human rights defenders and representatives of States and to develop the best possible cooperation between non-governmental organizations in the field and the bodies and procedures of the United Nations.

IFHR also contributed to United Nations efforts undertaken within the framework of the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, particularly the plan to create a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations system, and the draft Universal Declaration on Indigenous Rights. IFHR participated in the sessions of the Subcommission's Working Group on Indigenous Peoples and those of the Commission's working group on a draft Universal Declaration on Indigenous Rights.

In addition, IFHR made a substantial contribution to the work of the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, mainly through written statements and a number of oral statements under different agenda items, with a view to facilitating the work of those bodies.

## Participation in sessions of the treaty bodies

The Federation participated in the sessions of the following treaty bodies: Human Rights Committee, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, Committee on the Rights of the Child, Committee against Torture. During those sessions it provided the expert members with potentially useful information for their consideration of the periodic reports of States parties. It also made written and oral statements at several sessions of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Between October 1998 and October 1999, IFHR implemented a training programme for representatives of its member organizations that enabled them to contribute to the work of some sessions and familiarized them with the treaty monitoring system.

## Cooperation with United Nations programmes, bodies and specialized agencies

The Federation now has formal consultative status with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. In that capacity, under review, particularly in 1998, it contributed to the preparation of the draft programme and budget for 2000-2001.

In addition, the Federation has been admitted to the International Labour Organization Special List of non-governmental organizations and, in that capacity, is a participant in the International Labour Conference.

## Other activities

**Actions to promote the implementation of United Nations resolutions**

During the period under review, IFHR cooperated on a regular basis with the mechanisms created by United Nations resolutions, particularly the thematic and geographic special rapporteurs, by providing them with information relevant to the discharge of their mandate.

IFHR participated in the standard-setting working groups of the Commission on Human Rights, particularly the working group on a draft Universal Declaration on Indigenous Rights, the working group on a draft declaration on the right and responsibility of individuals, groups and organs of society to promote and protect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the working group on a draft optional protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

IFHR participated in the work of the Subcommission's Working Group on Minorities and, in response to the appeal made by the Working Group, contacted its 105 affiliate leagues throughout the world to encourage them to contribute to the work of the Working Group's fourth session in May 1998 on the theme of minority rights in education.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Working Group on Indigenous Peoples of the Commission and Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

IFHR participated in the sessions of the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.

**Consultations and cooperation with the United Nations Secretariat**

IFHR met several times with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

It provided information on a regular basis to the special rapporteurs of the Commission on Human Rights through their assistants at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

**Documents prepared at the request of the Secretary-General**

IFHR provided information on various issues as requested by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

IFHR also contributed information on a regular basis for the preparation of various studies undertaken by the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights.

## 9. Isis International

**Special consultative status granted in 1996**

Isis International (Santiago) is an international non-governmental organization created in 1974 in response to a need expressed by women from different countries for a women's information and communications service. The office in Santiago, Chile, was opened in 1984. Isis International promotes networking, communication and cooperation among women and groups working for women's empowerment and full participation in development. It provides communication channels, support, training and services in the following programme areas: resource centre and information, communications, health, violence against women, advocacy and campaigns, networking services and skills training. The Isis International network includes thousands of individuals, women's groups, non-governmental organizations, academic centres, intermediate development agencies, policy makers and government ministries, among others.

### Dissemination and implementation of United Nations resolutions

During the four years the following Isis International publications have included important information on different United Nations resolutions and how they have been implemented:

(a) *Boletín*, a quarterly, Spanish newsletter (with an English summary) of the Latin American and Caribbean Feminist Network on Domestic and Sexual Violence. Issues 11-25 were published from 1996 to 1999. Each issue includes information on the PAHO Women, Health and Development Programme study on the critical path for women affected by family violence. Other information covered included the following: the CEDAW Optional Protocol; how women's human rights have been included in the United Nations international conferences; the Call to Action to demand ratification and/or implementation of the Inter-American Convention for the Prevention, Sanction and Eradication of Violence against Women (Belem do Pará Convention) and the results of the Call to Action; an analysis of the Convention; evaluation of the Beijing Platform for Action at the forty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women; United Nations response to sexual violence against women during armed conflicts from 1969 to 1999;

(b) *Hojas de datos*: fact sheets that present comparative data in specific areas. Fact sheet No. 5 included information on the major agreements reached at the Fourth World Conference on Women concerning the issue of violence against women, women and armed conflicts, and the human rights of women; No. 6 reprinted the full text of the Belem do Pará Convention in English and Spanish, with a list, provided by the OAS Inter-American Commission on Women, of nations which had ratified the Convention by 17 September 1996; No. 7 provided a summary of the regional report from Latin America and the Caribbean on trafficking in women and forced work which was included in the report that the Special Rapporteur on violence against women presented at the fifty-third session of the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, Switzerland;

(c) *Perspectivas*, a 24-page dossier printed quarterly, provides systematized, comparative and up-to-date information on specific topics. It represents another

facet of the follow-up to the Platform for Action approved by the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. It is intended as a resource for organized women as well as for those who bear responsibility for implementing the Beijing agreements. Many of the topics covered during this period are in relation to the 12 areas of critical concern of the Beijing Platform for Action. They include Work: Where Are the Women?; Citizenship: Beyond the Vote; Women in the Media; Migrants; and Poverty, among others;

(d) *Agenda Salud*, an eight-page information dossier in Spanish on specific health issues. Issue No. 9, *Child Mothers*, is based on papers presented at the Workshop on Adolescent Pregnancy organized by UNICEF's Latin American and Caribbean Regional Office in Jamaica in November 1997. It was distributed along with the Plan for Action on Adolescent Pregnancy and Early Parenthood which resulted from UNICEF's workshop. Issue No. 10, *Sexuality and Reproduction in Poverty*, includes part of the paper, "Poverty and gender inequity: health and sexual and reproductive rights in Latin America and the Caribbean", presented at the seventh Regional Conference on Integrating Women in the Economic and Social Development of Latin America and the Caribbean, held in November 1997, and was prepared with the support of the Latin American and Caribbean Division of UNFPA;

(e) *Beijing '95 Platform: A Tool for Women's Action*, a 40-page publication containing a summary of the major agreements reached by the Platform for Action in an accessible language. Approximately 11,000 copies were produced in Spanish and 2,000 in Portuguese.

## Participation in and joint sponsorship of United Nations conferences, meetings and seminars

(a) Participation in the Continental Meeting on Intra Family Violence (Mexico City, 28-30 October 1996), convened by the Grupo Plural Pro Víctimas, UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNICEF, PAHO and the Attorney General of the Federal District of Mexico;

(b) Co-sponsorship of the Conference on Domestic Violence in the Americas (Washington, D.C., 20-21 October 1997), together with PAHO, the Women's Inter-American Committee (CIM-OAS) and the Institute for Civil Society, organized by the Inter-American Development Bank;

(c) Participation in the Seventh Regional Conference on Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, Chile, 19-21 November 1997), organized by ECLAC;

(d) Participation in events related to the Commission on the Status of Women's review of sections D, E, and I of the Beijing Platform for Action. The session also followed discussion on the Optional Protocol to CEDAW (New York, March 1988);

(e) Participation in the Latin American and Caribbean Regional Workshop on Women's Human Rights in the Context of Trafficking and Migration (Santo Domingo, June 1988), organized by INSTRAW, the Global Alliance against Trafficking in Women, the University of Puerto Rico Women's Studies project and the Centro de Orientación Integral of the Dominican Republic;

(f) Participation in the first meeting of the Task Force on Gender Issues of the Telecommunications Development Bureau (Geneva, Switzerland, 1-2 September 1998);

(g) Participation in the Meeting on Violence against Women and Girls, organized by UNICEF and UNIFEM (Geneva, Switzerland, October 1988);

(h) Participation in the First Latin American and Caribbean Journalists Meeting on Population and Reproductive Health (Cancun, Mexico, 3-5 December 1998), convened by UNFPA, the National Population Council of Mexico and Women's Communication and Information;

(i) Participation in the First Virtual Health Library Regional Coordination Meeting (Washington, D.C., 30 November-3 December 1999), organized by PAHO/BIREME as part of the discussions to lay the groundwork for a joint project involving Isis International in the Virtual Health Library that PAHO/BIREME put online in 1998. Isis International is to provide material on gender and health it has processed since 1984;

(j) Participation in the regional consultation to civil society: The United Nations in the XXI Century. A Vision from Latin America and the Caribbean (Santiago, Chile, 1-2 September 1999), organized by ECLAC to discuss future visions of the United Nations for the new millennium in view of the Millennium Summit.

### Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

Isis International was invited to join the Inter-Agency Advisory Group of Symposium 2000: Gender Violence, Health and Rights in the Americas. The Symposium is part of an international effort to expand the role of the sector in multisector strategies to address gender violence against women and girls. Sponsored by PAHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNIFEM, UNAIDS, in partnership with CIM/OAS, the Centre for Research in Women's Health, the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network, Isis International (Santiago) and the Latin American and Caribbean Network against Sexual and Domestic Violence, it is part of the United Nations Inter-Agency Campaign against Violence against Women. In 1999, Isis International (Santiago) was asked to collaborate in the selection of best practices and to help plan and organize the event.

Isis International has been a member of the Task Force on Gender Issues of the Telecommunications Development Bureau (ITU) since 1998.

## 10. Lutheran World Federation

**Special consultative status granted in 1952**

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) is a communion of 124 (as compared to 114 in 1984) Lutheran member churches on six continents. LWF serves to further the united witness, self-understanding and communion of its member churches. It serves to further Christian service (diakonia), alleviation of human need, promotion of peace and human rights, social and economic justice, care for God's creation and sharing of resources.

The United Nations has been a primary partner of LWF since its founding in 1947. LWF is authorized to serve as an international Lutheran agency which can be recognized by relevant United Nations agencies as well as by governmental, intergovernmental and voluntary organizations, to represent the member churches before such agencies, and to enter into such agreements with them as will facilitate LWF's work.

LWF maintains close contact on an ongoing basis with a large number of United Nations agencies, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). LWF also works with the United Nations Secretariat's Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Office of Communication and Public Information (OCPI).

In cooperation with the relevant United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, and local churches, LWF has long been deeply involved in refugee assistance programmes, especially in Africa, Asia and Central America. This concern is intimately linked to the commitment of LWF to uphold the human rights of all people. In harmony with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, LWF understands human rights to include not only the rights of individuals to freedom of speech, religion, the press and assembly but also the rights to food, development, self-determination and participation in political and social life. The relationship between human rights violations and refugee migration has long been understood by LWF and its member churches.

LWF responds to global emergencies as its means allow and upon request from its member churches, field offices, ecumenical partners or national Governments. Assistance is provided to victims of both natural disasters and complex emergencies. LWF is a member of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response and in that capacity participates in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, which serves as the primary mechanism for inter-agency coordination of policy issues relating to humanitarian assistance and for formulating coherent and timely responses to major and complex emergencies. In the field, LWF and other non-governmental organizations often form emergency groups on a nationwide basis to provide coordination of their response.

There has been close contact with the office of the Secretary-General and the Department of Political Affairs with respect to promoting peace in Central America. On various occasions, LWF has also formally presented documented issues of human rights concern to the Commission on Human Rights.

LWF is active within the community of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council and is a member of the board of CONGO. Its representatives serve on the steering committees and subgroups of the NGO Committees on Human Rights, Southern Africa, Sustainable Development and Status of Women (New York and Geneva). LWF was active in the planning for, and participated in, the NGO forums that preceded or paralleled the World Summit for Social Development (1995) and the Fourth World Conference on Women (1995).

Some selected examples of cooperation between LWF and the United Nations during the 1994-1997 quadrennium include:

(a) Sponsorship of meetings related to the Guatemala peace process involving the civil sector and the political dialogue in 1994 and 1995;

(b) Response to critical emergencies in Africa — e.g., Liberia, Sudan, and the Great Lakes region;

(c) Advocacy for and assistance in the repatriation, resettlement and rehabilitation of Mozambican and Angolan returnees;

(d) Repatriation of Guatemalan refugees from Mexico;

(e) Election monitoring in Liberia in 1997, in cooperation with UNOMIL;

(f) Participation in the World Summit for Social Development, the Fourth World Conference on Women, and the World Food Summit (1996);

(g) Humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people in the Occupied Territories, particularly the operation of the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem and a related village health clinic programme;

(h) Advocacy for the "Ottawa process" leading to the international Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction, and for its implementation;

(i) Involvement in the campaign to establish an International Criminal Court;

(j) Cooperation with the United Nations Non-Governmental Liaison Service in the publication and distribution of two books on women and development;

(k) Attendance at annual sessions of the Economic and Social Council, its committees, commissions and subcommissions (Status of Women, Sustainable Development, and Human Rights); the UNHCR Executive Committee; preparatory committees for the World Summit for Social Development and the Fourth World Conference on Women; and at selected meetings of the General Assembly and its committees; and meetings called by other United Nations organs, as well as its subsidiary bodies and specialized agencies.

## 11. Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights

**Special consultative status granted in 1996**

In its first four-year period of special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights used its status to make appropriate contributions to the meetings of the Commission on Human Rights, the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, the Preparatory Conference and the Beijing Plus Five Conference, the Commission on the Status of Women, and the United Nations diplomatic conference in Rome to create an international criminal court.

### Aims and purposes

Since its incorporation in 1983, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights has been working to promote and protect internationally recognized human rights.

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights is committed to enabling individuals and communities to realize their fundamental human rights and responsibilities through programmes and projects that integrate human rights fact-finding, advocacy, and education. The organization works locally, nationally, and internationally on human rights issues affecting women, children, refugees and immigrants. Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights has four main programme areas. The Children's Human Rights Program is developing a global model to promote the child's inherent right to survive. It sponsors the "One School at a Time" initiative to fund schools for poor children as an alternative to child labour. The Women's Human Rights Program conducts international training programmes on legal and practical approaches to eliminate domestic violence and holds an annual International Women's Day conference to increase local and national understanding of international human rights standards regarding women. The International Women's Day event is based on the 12 critical areas of concern outlined in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Refugee and Immigrant Program serves refugees and asylum-seekers through legal representation, education, and mobilization of communities against anti-immigrant bias. The Partners in Human Rights Education Program offers primary and secondary education about human rights and specifically about the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, to tens of thousands of students in the midwest region of the United States. The Partners Program led a campaign to educate the public about the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on the event of its fiftieth anniversary in 1998.

## Participation in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies

In the period 1996-2000, Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights attended several annual sessions of the Commission on Human Rights and every session of the Subcommission. Representatives of the organization submitted a number of written and oral statements at those meetings, particularly on women's human rights and the role of transnational corporations and human rights. Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights contributed to the working paper prepared by Mr. David Weissbrodt for submission at the Subcommission's 2000 session regarding principles relating to the human rights conduct of companies. The Women's Human Rights Program provided regular information to the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women. Representatives of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights attended the Preparatory Commission meeting to the Beijing Plus Five Conference (Geneva, January 2000) and the Beijing Plus Five Conference (New York, June 2000). Women's Program representatives also attended the Commission on the Status of Women session in March 2000. The organization focused its work at these women's conferences on the issue of domestic violence as a human rights violation. A representative of the organization chaired the legal working group of the drafting conference for a manual on the effective investigation and documentation of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Istanbul Protocol), which has been favourably received by the Special Rapporteur on Torture and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

## Cooperation with other United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

A representative of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights attended the United Nations diplomatic conference to create an international criminal court (Rome, 1998). The representative worked with the NGO Coalition for an International Criminal Court to monitor drafting sessions and encourage Governments to support the creation of the court. The Refugee and Immigrant Program receives funding from the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture to support its work in providing legal representation to torture victims and their families. In addition, the Washington office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees frequently provides technical assistance to volunteer attorneys of Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights who represent asylum applicants. The Children's Human Rights Program disseminates UNICEF materials regarding the Convention on the Rights of the Child and promotes United States ratification of that treaty. The Children's Program has also provided background information to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

## Other relevant activities

Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights is a leader in human rights education and promotion of the standards and mechanisms of the United Nations. Staff and volunteers of the organization promote the human rights activities of the United Nations by teaching in classrooms, speaking at events and conferences in universities, churches, and other civic forums, and by drawing the attention of the media to these issues.

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### Note by the Secretary-General

**Addendum**

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# 1. Asian Women's Human Rights Council

## (Special consultative status granted 1995)

### Introduction

The Asian Women's Human Rights Council (AWHRC) is an organization that seeks to extend and transform the human rights discourse from the perspective and life visions of the South, the marginalized, women. By challenging the dominant world view and its discourses and seeking to strengthen women's knowledge and wisdom, it invites us to another dialogue, proffering new visions towards a just and peaceful world for women and men. Comprising women from women's groups, academia and human rights organizations, AWHRC functions from its regional secretariat in Bangalore, India, and a secretariat in Manila, the Philippines.

The aims and purposes of AWHRC are:

(a) To develop as well as to promote a critical and a feminist perspective on human rights; and to specifically focus on the gender dimension in the dominant human rights discourse;

(b) To understand and to see with new eyes the realities of the different forms of violence against women in Asia, denying women their most fundamental right to be human;

(c) To facilitate unity among the women of the South, especially among Asian women; to deepen our analysis of the roots of the violence against women; to create different platforms and possibilities for dialogue with women, human rights groups and social movements;

(d) To foster solidarity and concrete action among women's groups, leaders and advocates in the region and to effectively promote women's human rights as integral to the struggle for the collective rights of peoples;

(e) To work towards changing the existing socio-economic, political and patriarchal systems in the countries of Asia and the Pacific as they continue to breed severe forms of exploitation, inequality and violence towards women;

(f) To gather in conversations across cultures, the knowledge and wisdom in the Asia-Pacific region and of women of all cultures, entering into a dialogue of transformation that challenges the dominant world view creating a new discourse; and to develop new visions towards a just and peaceful world for women and men.

The focus of AWHRC is the escalating violence against women in the context of:

- The growing militarization and nuclearization of nation States in the Asia and Pacific region;
- Fundamentalism, and communal and ethnic conflicts which are enveloping the region;
- The dominant development model, the globalization of poverty and the increasing feminization of poverty;

- The continuing and escalating wars against women in the personal realm: women's health and reproductive rights, the violence of rape, dowry murders, trafficking and prostitution, honour crimes, female infanticide.

AWHRC has been working at two levels towards making this violence visible. At one level, AWHRC is working with different civil society actors like women's and human rights organizations and networks, non-governmental organizations and academia to initiate deeper levels of enquiry into the root causes of this violence and seek justice and reparation for the victims of violence in the Asia-Pacific region. At another level, it seeks to undertake lobby and advocacy action with Governments and other related international entities like the United Nations to hold them accountable for the violence and its redressal. On account of its effective international networking and advocacy, it was granted special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council in July 1995.

**Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or conferences and other United Nations meetings**

In this context, it has participated in all the major international meetings, both at the United Nations forums and in parallel non-governmental organization processes since 1993 including:

(a) The World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 1993;

(b) International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, 1994;

(c) The World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, Denmark, 1995;

(d) The Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995.

Apart from this, it has been doing lobbying and advocacy work with the United Nations Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, the Commission on Human Rights and the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, not only on including a gender dimension in their mandate but also on specific issues it has been involved with, particularly the comfort women issue, trafficking and prostitution.

In this context, the specific activities it has undertaken between 1995 and 1998 include:

*World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, Denmark, 1995*

AWHRC participated in the NGO Forum of the World Summit for Social Development and organized the following workshops:

- Caucus of South Women's Networks along with the Asia-Pacific Women's Action Network (APWAN);

- Social Development in Countries experiencing Economic Blockade sponsored with AMISTAD: Philippine-Cuban Friendship Society, Development Alternatives with Women for New Era (DAWN), GABRIELA, Philippines (the General Assembly Binding Women for Reforms, Integrity, Equality, Leadership and Action) and Federación Mujeres de Cuba (FMC);

- Hour of the Fox, a workshop on the Violence of Development and Crimes Against Women sponsored with Vimochana, India.

*World Conference on Women, Beijing, China, 1995*

Apart from organizing almost 14 workshops on various issues like dowry violence, violence against the Dalits, militarization; comfort women and the World Court of Women on Violence Against Women, during the NGO Forum, AWHRC participated in several official United Nations processes leading up to the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, that is to say, it:

(a) Participated in the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities experts meeting in February 1994 in Geneva as well as in the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women acting as the preparatory body for the Fourth World Conference on Women, in New York in March 1994;

(b) Coordinated two themes [eight workshops] at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Regional Asia and Pacific Meeting for NGOs held in Manila in preparation for the Beijing conference, 1995;

(c) Participated in the thirty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women: final preparatory meeting before the Beijing conference, held in New York, in April 1995. This meeting provided an opportunity for AWHRC to forward several comments and suggestions for the draft Platform for Action. This included emphasizing that the global situation had drastically changed and that, in this context, democracy could not be equated with a free market economy. Its intervention was that women of the South must respond to the challenge to develop a post-cold war paradigm of politics and make the United Nations and Governments at the local and international levels accountable to their people. It was important, in this connection, to develop post-Beijing mechanisms of democratic participation at the national, regional and international levels;

(d) The Council was involved in the convening of the Caucus of Asia-Pacific Women's Networks, composed of Manila-based regional women's networks for Beijing. It was also involved in the formation of the Asia-Pacific Women's Action Network (APWAN), formed on 9 May 1994 in Bangkok. APWAN served as a regional non-governmental organization formation composed of regional and national networks of women to lobby for democratic spaces in the official processes towards Beijing. AWHRC was elected to provide the facilities for communication and contacts of APWAN partners;

(e) 1-6 June 1994: Lobby Training Seminar for Asian Women's NGOs before the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Meeting on Women (Jakarta, Indonesia); and 7-13 June: lobbying actions during the Ministerial Meeting organized with Kalyanamitra in Indonesia and the Caucus of Asia-Pacific Women's Networks;

(f) 14-17 November 1994: Women's Human Rights and the Challenge of Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS): a conference organized by AWHRC in partnership with the World Council of Churches, Human Rights Task Force Cambodia, and the Cambodian Women's Development Association, held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

*Comfort women issue*

With regard to this issue:

(a) AWHRC lobbied for the adoption of the report on violence against women, compiled by United Nations Special Rapporteur Radhika Coomaraswamy, at the fifty-second session of the Commission on Human Rights held in Geneva, Switzerland, April 1996; written interventions were submitted endorsing the report;

(b) AWHRC joined the international alliance of support groups for the women victims and survivors of Japan's military rape and sexual slavery during wartime, which campaigned successfully for the adoption of the Coomaraswamy report by the Commission on Human Rights;

(c) AWHRC also attended and actively participated in the twenty-first session of the United Nations Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, held in Geneva, Switzerland, 17-27 June 1996. It presented an oral intervention at the NGO Representatives Forum held on 24 June 1996 calling for United Nations support against the Japan-sponsored Asian Women's Fund, the private fund being offered in lieu of State compensation to comfort women victims;

(d) In March-April 1997, four Japanese were designated by AWHRC as its representatives to the Commission on Human Rights session in Geneva. Two written statements were submitted on behalf of AWHRC, on the issue of the comfort women and their demand for State legal compensation from the Japanese Government;

(e) At the August 1997 session in Geneva of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, two Japanese from Citizens Fund for Redress in Tokyo were designated as AWHRC representatives and submitted written statements and delivered oral interventions on the comfort women issue;

(f) In the March-April 1998 session of the Commission on Human Rights, four Japanese were sent as AWHRC representatives and delivered oral interventions on the issue of the comfort women under the agenda item on the human rights of women;

(g) At the August 1998 session of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, one Japanese was sent as AWHRC representative and submitted a written statement and delivered an oral intervention on the comfort women/military sexual slavery issue and on the report prepared by Gay McDougal, the Special Rapporteur on wartime sexual slavery.

## 2. Federal Union of European Nationalities

### (Special consultative status granted 1995)

**About the Federal Union of European Nationalities**

The Federal Union of European Nationalities (FUEN) is an independent union of the organizations of national minorities in Europe, which was established in 1949, at the time when the Council of Europe was set up in Versailles, France. Today, FUEN numbers 68 member organizations from 30 States (as of 2000).

**Objective**

According to its statutes, FUEN serves the ethnic groups in Europe and pursues the goal of preserving their national identity, their language, their culture and the history of national minorities. This objective is pursued only by peaceful means. FUEN decisively takes a stand against separatism and the violent moving of national borders, and works towards a neighbourly, peaceful coexistence of majority and minority in one State or region. FUEN has been convinced since 1949 that a minority can find a harmonious relationship with the majority population only on the basis of free democratic and constitutional principles in peaceful and constructive dialogue through the negotiation of political solutions.

**FUEN activities**

FUEN activities consist of:

- The Annual Congress with a current central theme;
- The Assembly of Delegates which takes place in connection with a congress;
- Passing of statements and resolutions;
- Publication of press releases (up to 20 times per year) and FUEN bulletins (up to six times per year);
- Participation in meetings of non-governmental organizations of the Council of Europe, the United Nations and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE);
- Organization of regional activities (for example, annual meetings of Slavonian and German minorities in FUEN);
- Organization of or participation in symposia and other events relating to minority issues in Europe;
- Visits to national minorities to ascertain their situation (so-called fact-finding missions with detailed reports and recommendations).

According to FUEN's consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, FUEN took part in the following events (1995-1998).

**1995: FUEN is granted special consultative status**

FUEN, already in consultative status with the Council of Europe (since 1989), was granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. This constituted further recognition of the activities and targets of FUEN on an international level. After detailed preparation and examination of the records, the committee responsible finally turned to the application submitted by FUEN, on 13 June, in New York. At this point, an FUEN representative was heard. On 1 August 1995, FUEN received the official document from the United Nations indicating that FUEN had been granted special consultative status with the Council.

**1996: Participation of FUEN at the forth-ninth annual NGO/Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat conference in New York**

The conference was divided into plenary sessions and working groups. The FUEN representative took part in both. On 10 September 1995, the FUEN representative visited that on "Security Council reform".

On 11 September 1995, the FUEN representative took the opportunity to make a statement in the working group regarding conflict resolution. In his introduction, the FUEN representative focused on the draft of the additional protocol to the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and the work that had followed regarding the monitoring of the situation of national minorities in different States in Central and Eastern Europe. The FUEN representative emphasized the effort of FUEN to play the role of mediator between State authorities and the representative of national minorities.

The FUEN representative received a question from the floor regarding his opinion regarding why national minorities in Europe had different claims in their struggle for minority rights. The FUEN representative answered that that question would require another workshop to discuss it in detail, but generally on the level of principles, he referred to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) as well as the Declaration of the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, 18 December 1992, and other international documents that guaranteed the equality of rights, and the right to freedom, as well as the right to identity.

**1997**

**26-29 May 1997: Conference on human and minority rights in Geneva**

**18 and 19 August 1997: Conference on human and minority rights in Geneva**

**16 December 1997: "Stability or 'In' Stability": FUEN conference in Copenhagen**

Prior to the OSCE conference in Copenhagen, FUEN jointly with the German and Danish minorities in the border area organized a seminar on the role of national minorities in search of stability in Europe. Professor Asbjörn Eide, President of the United Nations working group on minority issues, illustrated the current status of United Nations efforts towards minority protection; after summarizing the range of international legal and political instruments, Silvo Devetak of Maribor (Slovenia) presented major issues involved in compiling the Charter for European Security which the OSCE had to observe and continuously promote.

In the final plenary discussion, the FUEN President emphasized the role of international organizations as partners of State institutions. As Rapporteur for minority issues at the Council of Europe, Henning Gjellerod (Denmark) also assessed the international mechanisms of the Council of Europe for the protection of minorities as a first significant step, provided that these would be signed by all members of the Council of Europe and implemented in the sense in which they were meant to be implemented. However, further measures, like the supplementary protocol to the human rights instrument — still gathering dust in a drawer — would

have to follow. Anke Sporendonk and Sigfried Matlok, representatives of the two minorities in the German-Danish border region, illustrated the mutually agreeable yet not totally conflict-free coexistence with the respective majority population which was based, to a not inconsiderable extent, on the German-Danish treaty and generously interpreted regulations granting a high degree of autonomy in educational and cultural fields.

In a status analysis of the Baltic region, Dr. Priit Järve of the European Centre for Minority Issues in Flensburg saw substantial potential for conflict in the still unsolved question of citizenship for the Russians, a previous majority now forming a minority, and consequently, in the relationship of Estonia and Latvia with the Russian Federation.

As the matter is currently topical, the Hungarian representative of the Hungarians in the Romanian Parliament, Dr. Ferene Peesi, spoke in Copenhagen. He agreed with Romania's ambassador Dr. Grete Tartler Tabarasi, that a stabilization of the coalition government and isolation of fundamental nationalistic currents were of the greatest significance in consolidating the democracy in Romania.

The FUEN Presiding Committee considered the ethno-political conflict potential to be one of the greatest risks to stability in Europe also in future. The Committee compiled a policy document for the attention of OSCE containing concrete demands and expectations placed on national and international organizations concerned with minority policies.

**1998**

**27 February-1 March 1998: Oslo Recommendations on the Linguistic Rights of National Minorities**

**27 and 28 April 1998: Language and human rights, the role of States, the United Nations and non-governmental organizations**

**5 November 1998: How to deal with the Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities in Conjunction with the OSCE Conference of Implementation in Warsaw on 5 November 1998; seminar for the national minorities in Poland**

The Presiding Committee of FUEN resolved to hold seminars for members of national minorities and interested OSCE delegates in connection with important OSCE meetings. The first meeting of this kind took place in Copenhagen in December and encouraged the Presiding Committee to prepare and carry out a similar event for the Warsaw Implementation Meeting. The FUEN President was pleased to welcome 61 participants in the plenary hall provided by OSCE. Apart from representatives of international non-governmental organizations, delegates and ambassadors from several OSCE States were present.

In his speech, Professor Gerhard Bartodziej, former Senator of the Polish State, provided a sober and critical overview of the current situation of national minorities in Poland. Poland is still some distance away from a satisfactory legal and political solution; the emotional climate towards national minorities must be referred to as rather unstable. Representatives of the Lemks, Masurians, Belarusians,

Tartars, the German Social Cultural Society and the German Working Group "Reconciliation and Future" described their organizations and problems.

The discussions were followed by information on the two conventions of the Council of Europe that take effect that year. The meeting passed a joint declaration, in which the Government and Parliament of Poland were called upon to give political priority to the ratification of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities.

## 3. International Catholic Union of the Press

### (Special consultative status granted 1951)

**Introductory statement**

The International Catholic Union of the Press (UCIP), founded in 1927 in Brussels, Belgium, has the following goals: to encourage the presence and to support the activities of Catholics in various sectors of the press and all forms of press information; to promote the development of Catholic journalism in every country; to promote and defend the right to information and freedom of opinion; and to represent Catholic journalism at the various institutions and organizations, both governmental and non-governmental.

**Membership**

UCIP's membership is grouped by eight regional federations: Africa, Latin America, North America, South America, South Asia, South-East Asia, East Asia and Europe. Membership also includes seven professional federations, namely, Individual Catholic Journalists, Federation of Catholic Dailies, Federation of Periodicals, Federation of Catholic News Agencies, Federation of Catholic Journalism Teachers and Researchers, Federation of Church Press Associations and, beginning in 1995, the Federation of Book Publishers.

In the past five years, UCIP has seen a steady growth in individual memberships from both the Catholic and the secular press. In its regional federations, growth has been noted in federation memberships. Individual membership among women professionals has increased in recent years. Mrs. Elizabeth Ee-Chooi (Malaysia) became the first woman and first non-European UCIP member to be elected President of the organization in 1998.

**Finances**

Membership dues of individuals and the professional and regional organizations finance UCIP. The organization has not received funds from any United Nations body nor has it requested assistance from that organization. There is an annual shortfall between operating expenses and actual dues income. Considerable fund-raising efforts are conducted annually among friends, Catholic organizations and charitable institutions interested in supporting the Catholic press.

To develop and expand upon its membership base, UCIP operates a number of specialized programmes designed to attract journalists of all ages. Among its most successful is the International Network of Young Journalists. This group has its own

study courses and even its own international meeting and has brought new vitality, new ideas and a regular updating on the expectations of the new generations. UCIP's Refresher Programmes, short-term, intensive study sessions in Colombia, Peru, Mali, Lebanon, Prague and Ghana from 1995 to 1998, attracted journalists, both young and older, to focus on contemporary journalistic problems in situ. UCIP university special courses for Catholic and non-Catholic journalists were conducted in 1996 in Hong Kong, China, and Macao, China, and in 1997 in Argentina, Bolivia and Brazil. The sessions concentrated on first-hand encounters with the culture, realities and the individual and national viewpoints in the host countries to help media professionals better understand the life on continents other than their own.

**Participation and cooperation with United Nations organizations**

UCIP members regularly attend conferences, meetings and other United Nations organizations' activities. UCIP is accredited to the Economic and Social Council in New York and in Vienna and to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris. Among major sessions participated in by UCIP non-governmental organizations during the report period were: Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, September 1995: meeting of the preparatory body for the Beijing conference held in New York, March 1995; World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 1995; United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, June 1996; World Food Summit, Rome, 1996; special session of the General Assembly (five-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development), New York, 23-27 June 1997.

UCIP non-governmental organization representatives attended many other annual United Nations observances during the report period including World Press Freedom Day and International Day of Families, among others. UCIP held its International World Congress of the Catholic Press at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, 11-20 September 1998, with a participation of more than 1,180 journalists from around the world.

Like many other non-governmental organizations at the United Nations, UCIP representatives generally tend to work through various non-governmental organization committees or specialized United Nations bodies. In New York, the UCIP non-governmental organization is a member of the NGO Committee on the Family and the Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations. He also works with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat. In Paris, the UCIP non-governmental organizations are active at UNESCO since many press problems and concerns, such as freedom of information, and the rights and freedom of journalists, come under that organization's mandate, UCIP headquarters staff also attend a variety of United Nations meetings and briefings in Geneva.

UCIP publications include (a) documents: position papers of the world union reflecting and analysing topics of serious journalistic interest, for example, "Press and tolerance" (1995) and "Press responsibilities in violent conflict situations" (1993); and (b) books such as *Ethics of Peace in a World of Violence* with contributions from media experts, and State and religious leaders to explore options for a lasting peace. The organization also issues a quarterly newsletter, *UCIP Information*, in English, French, German and Spanish.

# 4. National Safety Council

## (Special consultative status granted 1995)

### Introductory summary

The National Safety Council (NSC) has energetically worked to promote key United Nations documents relating to occupational safety and health, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. During the reporting period, the National Safety Council expanded cooperation with United Nations agencies, particularly the International Labour Organization (ILO), and spearheaded significant efforts throughout the world to promote effective safety and health programmes.

### Aims and purposes of the National Safety Council

The National Safety Council was organized as a not-for-profit, non-government corporation in 1913 to promote policies and actions to mitigate human suffering resulting from preventable injuries, illnesses and fatalities. In 1953, the United States Congress passed Public Law PL-259 formally establishing the Council as a federally chartered non-political, non-profit corporation.

Headquartered outside Chicago, Illinois, the National Safety Council currently has over 300 full-time staff members devoted to promoting workplace highway and home/community safety. More than 17,000 business labour, professional and government organizations and officials in some 80 countries worldwide are members of the Council. The international advisory board for NSC includes representatives from North and South America, Europe and Asia.

In pursuit of its mission, the National Safety Council provides a wide range of training and education programmes and on-site consultation services, and convenes numerous conferences and meetings each year — including an annual Congress and Exposition — to discuss safety and health issues affecting a wide range of industries.

The National Safety Council's programmes stress the vital importance of cooperation between Governments, business and labour groups, and professional associations to identify solutions to the leading causes of preventable injuries, illnesses and fatalities. The Council works closely with officials at all levels of government, and stresses dissemination of information about "best practices" to eliminate safety and health hazards.

### Cooperation with the United Nations and specialized agencies

During the reporting period, the National Safety Council has worked energetically to promote cooperation with the United Nations organizations and specialized agencies to further the cause of effective occupational safety and health. These activities have been geared to promote those portions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which deal with working conditions, and specifically with safety and health in the workplace.

The National Safety Council has been particularly successful in developing cooperative programmes with ILO. These include cooperation with the ILO's

International Training Centre in Turin, Italy, where NSC has delivered safety and health training courses for ILO/UN trainees, and sponsorship of a special international workshop on agricultural safety, again in cooperation with ILO. NSC and ILO are also exploring cooperative activities in other areas, including international programmes on the positive relationship of safety and productivity in economic development.

NSC has also held preliminary discussions with ILO and the World Health Organization (WHO) about development of a new compendium of international occupational safety and health statistics.

NSC has been instrumental in providing safety training for United Nations peacekeeping troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In addition, NSC has begun working closely with a number of international development and financial institutions, including the Asian Development Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. The goal of these efforts is to incorporate safety and health into development activities in ways that promote economic development. NSC has developed a pilot project for Central America which will introduce new approaches to safety and health through cooperation among the social partners.

As part of its efforts to promote worldwide respect for the safety and health provisions of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, as well as the conventions and recommendations of ILO in this area, NSC has spearheaded efforts to expand the role of, and communications between, safety councils throughout the world. NSC, with assistance from ILO and the International Social Security Association, organized the first meeting of safety councils in Madrid in 1996, during the World Safety Congress. These discussions have led to joint activities in a number of areas, including development of new international clearing houses for information on major chemical incidents, and highway safety research. NSC and its counterpart in Japan, the Japanese Industrial Safety and Health Association, in 1997-1998 conducted a special joint study on safety and productivity among large multinationals, and demonstrated that the relationship is positive. These efforts are now expanded to cover safety and productivity in small and medium-sized enterprises, under the auspices of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. ILO and the Asian Development Bank are also cooperating in these efforts.

**Other relevant activities**

NSC:

- Signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Indonesia for the delivery of health and safety training through the Ministry of Manpower to small, medium-sized and large enterprises;
- In conjunction with the ILO International Training Centre, Turin, is providing training to labour inspectors of China;
- Is undertaking an independent review of construction safety in Hong Kong, China;
- In central and eastern Europe, is providing training courses in the Russian, Czech and Polish languages.

# 5. Water Environment Federation

## (Special consultative status granted 1995)

**Summary**

The Water Environment Federation (WEF) was granted special consultative status in 1995 and between 1995 and 1998 worked to understand how it might contribute to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its subsidiary bodies and to make United Nations officials aware of the technical resources WEF can provide. As documented in the present report, some success was achieved. The organization was represented at many meetings and briefings and at the fifth and sixth sessions of the Commission. It provided information to individual officials and those working with the United Nations, contributed water-related case studies that were published in the United Nations publication *Sustainable Development Success Stories*; and provided substantive review and input to a strategy paper developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Sustainable Energy and Environment Division. The Chief of the Water Resources Section of the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was featured as a keynote speaker at a WEF conference, and the organization provided some modest financial support to United Nations-related activities.

### Introduction

WEF remains an international not-for-profit educational and technical organization with a mission to preserve and enhance the global water environment. It still provides a wide range of technical manuals, and training materials in various print and electronic formats; conducts conference seminars and training courses; has a substantial public education and outreach programme; and works through its research foundation to advance scientific and technical research to improve water quality management. In recent years, WEF has taken a more active role in the international dialogue on water policy. Since WEF's application for consultative status was submitted in May 1994, the international scope of the organization has also increased. In 1994, it was a federation of 64 "local, regional, and national organizations". Between 1994 and 1994, WEF added member associations (MAs) in Mexico (1994), the Philippines and Colombia (1995), Child (1996), and Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Hungary, eastern Mexico and the Palestinian territories (1977). Each of these MAs is an independent association of environmental specialists represented on the WEF Board (its governing body). In addition to the expanded network of local, regional, and national organizations that are represented on the WEF Board, the organization has corresponding or affiliated organizations in six countries. Two of these affiliations, with organizations in Bulgaria and Indonesia, have been established since 1994.

During the reporting period, WEF's sources of funding remained primarily membership dues; conference, exhibit, and seminar fees; advertising charges; and the proceeds from the sales of print and electronic technical and educational materials. WEF also did not establish any formal affiliation with another organization in consultative status.

**Participation in conferences and meetings**

Between 1995 and 1998, WEF's official representative, Mr. Nicholas Bartilucci (a WEF member), participated in a wide range of briefings, seminars and meetings at United Nations Headquarters. For example, he attended the fifth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development in June 1997 as an observer and participated in the seminar on sustainable development and education cosponsored by United Nations University (UNU) and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in April 1998 and in the sixth session of the Commission (April 1998). WEF staff representatives also attended the sixth session of the Commission and travelled to New York to accompany the official representative to meetings with United Nations representatives to explore ways in which WEF could support the goals of the Commission and its subsidiary bodies.

WEF also strived to support meetings of the Commission and its subsidiaries through the submission of scientific and technical information. For example, in November 1997, WEF ascertained that Lyn Billman-Golemme, the facilitator of the caucus on freshwater of the Commission, was preparing a paper on "Industry and water" in support of the work of the caucus. WEF conducted a search of its publications and provided the facilitator with case studies demonstrating innovative approaches to the reuse of water for industrial applications. WEF responded to the call from the Division for Sustainable Development of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat for sustainable development case studies for the sixth session of the Commission by submitting a range of relevant success stories in the areas of capacity-building, education, freshwater and industry. These were presented to the sixth session of the Commission and two, "Cairo sludge disposal study" and "Lake Tobla-Lake Champlain Sister Lakes Exchange", were selected for publication by the Division for Sustainable Development in *Sustainable Development Success Stories* and at *http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev*. These were two of only 19 success stories published within the freshwater management category in 1998. Thus, WEF supplied more than 10 per cent of the water-related case studies published that year.

**Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies**

In seeking consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, WEF's goal was to offer the benefit of the scientific and technical information and expertise available through its membership to support the objectives of the Commission on Sustainable Development and its subsidiary bodies. WEF worked during the reporting period to raise the awareness of United Nations officials of the resources it can provide. It also sought to understand how these resources could be accessible to the United Nations and its officials. For example, during 1996, WEF's official representative contacted or visited at least eight officials of UNDP, three officials of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and the Chief of the Water Resources Development and Management Service of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Some of the key exchanges were with Ms. Farida Ayoub, Chief of the NGO Section for the former Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development of the United Nations Secretariat; Mr. Pierre Najlis of the Energy and Natural Resource Branch of the Division for Sustainable Development; Frank Hartvelt, Director, Water, Waste Management and the Aquatic Environment Group of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Division (SEED) of UNDP; and Maureen O'Neill, Senior Water Adviser with the same group.

As a result of these meetings and exchanges, WEF was asked by Mr. Vicente Santiago-Fandino, a Programme Officer with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) International Environmental Technology Centre (IETC) to provide information on lake management experts and expert institutions in Australia and South-East Asia. According to Mr. Santiago-Fandino, "the most valuable information" provided by WEF helped IETC "consider different possibilities for our projects in the region". WEF was also asked to provide input to a paper prepared by UNDP/SEED on "Human resource development in the water sector" (see below). Officials at the United Nations recommended that WEF join the World Water Council and the Global Water Partnership. WEF joined both organizations in 1997 and maintains these memberships today.

**Other relevant activities**

In 1996 and 1997, members of WEF staff, its official representative to the United Nations and 10 additional WEF members performed reviews of and provided resource materials for *Human Resources Development in the Water Sector: A Proposed Strategy* that was prepared by the UNDP's SEED Water, Waste Management and Aquatic Environment Division for consideration by the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council at its 3-7 November 1997 meeting in Manila. The document contained information on case studies and programmes provided by WEF and the role of WEF and individual members was noted in the "Contributors to the strategy" appendix to the document. According to Ms. Maureen O'Neill, Senior Water Adviser to UNDP: "The comments from WEF were invaluable." Ms. O'Neill also noted: "The Water Environment Federation has always been one of the best professional groups around. I feel very fortunate to be working with all of you."

In March 1998, Mr. Cengiz Ertuna, Chief, Water Resources Section of the Environment and Natural Resources Management Division of ESCAP, participated as a keynote speaker in WEFTEC Asia, a conference organized by WEF in Singapore and with an attendance of over 1,400. Speaking in a session that also featured Mr. Heng Chiang Meng, Chairman of Singapore's Parliamentary Committee on the Environment, Mr. Ertuna presented a paper entitled "Water and waste-water infrastructure development challenges in Asia and the Pacific".

In addition to its in-kind support, WEF made some modest financial contributions in support of the furtherance of United Nations goals during the reporting period. WEF covered the cost of Mr. Ertuna's transportation, lodging and miscellaneous expenses and waived the registration fee so that he could participate in WEFTEC Asia in March 1998 in Singapore. In February 1995, WEF provided a contribution of the requested amount ($50) in support of the Non-Governmental Organizations/Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat (NGO/DPI) Executive Committee and donated $250 in support of the activities of the Department of Public Information NGO Resource Centre in April 1997.

## 6. World Association of Children's Friends

### (Special consultative status granted 1987)

**Introduction (goals and objectives)**

The World Association of Children's Friends, founded in 1963 by Princess Grace of Monaco, is a non-governmental organization currently headed by Her Royal Highness the Princess of Hanover.

The goal of the Association is to support and promote all activities for the physical, moral and spiritual welfare of the world's children, whatever their race, nationality or religion, in a spirit of complete political independence.

Officers:

(a) Secretary-General: Mr. Jacques Danois, a Belgian national, former Senior Officer for information with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) (Paris, New York, Bangkok, Abidjan);

(b) First Vice-President: Mr. Georges Grinda, a national of Monaco, Chef de Cabinet to His Serene Highness the Sovereign Prince of Monaco.

The Association is represented in a total of 23 countries through affiliated national associations: Argentina, Belgium, Burkina Faso, Congo, Cyprus, Dominican Republic, France, Greece, Guinea, Italy, Lithuania, Madagascar, Monaco, Poland, Portugal, Senegal, Spain and Togo, plus Benin, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burundi, Niger and Philippines, the latter five having joined between 1995 and 1998.

On the moral or intellectual level, the Association is active in the following areas:

(a) Ethics and law, in efforts to protect the lives and physical and mental integrity of children against the scourges of drugs, violence, abusive genetic engineering and child prostitution;

(b) Education, in efforts to raise awareness among youth in countries of the northern hemisphere about the problems of youth in the southern hemisphere: sponsorship of disadvantaged school children through the "School Passport" project financed by youth activities in the Principality of Monaco;

(c) A major programme of "Health and moral prevention for youth", which provides education in responsibility and has given rise to a "Code of Life" discussed in the book *Pour l'Enfant*.

On the practical level, the Association provides assistance to projects submitted by the national associations, after they have been approved by its Projects Committee.

On a limited basis, the Association provides assistance to activities in other countries: Cambodia, Cameroon, Mali, Mauritania, Nepal, Romania, Viet Nam.

(a) Combating nutritional blindness (vitamin A, in partnership with UNICEF);

(b) Providing education and literacy teaching for street children;

(c) Training young indigenous surgeons and performing surgical operations on children with cleft palates;

(d) Establishing specialized centres to assist teen mothers and their babies.

Sources of funding:

(a) Development of fund-raising through more regular use of the media;

(b) Support from the Government of Monaco for the activities of the Association's secretariat.

Affiliation with an international non-governmental organization on a consultative basis: *Innocence en Danger*.

Participation in United Nations meetings: representation and statements:

(a) UNICEF Executive Board meetings in New York;

(b) General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Paris;

(c) Various symposia on the rights of the child held by UNESCO in Paris, Geneva, Brussels and Monaco.

Cooperation with the United Nations and specialized agencies: Council of Europe, UNICEF, UNESCO, Economic and Social Council.

Other related activities: child advocacy.

Activities to implement United Nations resolutions: organization of thematic meetings on children and media outreach. Planned for 2000: international symposium on bioethics and the rights of the child, organized jointly with UNESCO, Paris.

Consultation and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat: ongoing.

Financial assistance given to the United Nations: participation in and support for the UNICEF vitamin A programme.

Financial assistance received from the United Nations: assistance received through various partnerships with UNESCO (for example, the publication *Pour l'enfant*).

Cooperation in the field: Benin.

## 7. World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union

### (Special consultative status granted 1947)

The World's Woman's Christian Temperance Union was founded by Frances Willard, Illinois, United States of America, in 1883 to raise the equal status of women.

Officers: 1996: World President (England), Corresponding Secretary (United States of America), Recording Secretary (United States of America), Treasurer (Australia), First Vice-President (Sweden), Second Vice-President (United States of

America), third Vice-President (Canada) and fourth Vice-President (Republic of Korea).

Departments and appointed Superintendents at world level. Affiliated member countries encouraged to help their members through contact with the superintendents.

Departments: Children and Youth, Education, Citizenship, Hospitality, Peace and Human Rights, Social Services, Public Relations, Literature, Promotion Methods, Christian Outreach.

Fieldworkers: Middle East, Far East, Pacific islands, Africa, Commonwealth countries, Russian Federation, Baltic States, United States of America and Great Britain.

United Nations representatives: United States of America and Geneva.

Member countries in the West assist with monetary help where needed. World Union sponsor national officers and workers from underprivileged countries to attend the Triennial World Conventions.

Recent Conventions: 1995: Melbourne, Australia; 1998: Seoul, Republic of Korea. The thirty-fifth Triennial World Convention will take place in Birmingham, England, from 25 July to 1 August 2001.

This organization attended the annual assembly of the annual assembly of NGOs in New York, 28-30 August 2000.

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## Quadrennial reports, 1997-2000 submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

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# 1. Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization

**Special consultative status granted in 1973**

## Aims and purposes

The aims of the Afro-Asian Peoples' Solidarity Organization (AAPSO) are:

(a) To unite broad democratic forces irrespective of political, religious, social and geographical differences against all forms of subjugation, including intolerance and hate; for the common aim of cooperation and solidarity in order to create a peaceful, happy and prosperous life for humankind;

(b) To support the national liberation movements and democratic forces struggling for the preservation and defence of world peace, national culture, sovereignty and territorial integrity, world economic security, ecology, human rights, universal justice, transparency, and free flow of information without distortion and hindrance;

(c) To consistently work for mobilizing popular support to the principles of the United Nations and its agencies.

## Main activities

(a) South/South cooperation: highlighting the problems of the southern countries;

(b) Organizing conferences, seminars, round tables, discussions and meetings on disarmament, peace, development, human rights and ecology;

(c) Closely cooperate with international and national non-governmental organizations;

(d) Consultation conferences, including seminars, with national organizations in the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa;

(e) Publications and documentation.

## Relations with the specialized agencies and other non-governmental organizations

AAPSO has consultative status with UNIDO, UNESCO and UNCTAD. AAPSO is a member of CONGO and maintains close relations with all the other members.

## 1997

AAPSO was represented at the following:

(a) "Clash of Civilization or Dialogue of Culture", Cairo, 10-12 March;

(b) First preparatory meeting of the institutional support project of Egyptian non-governmental organizations for the implementation of Beijing Women's Conference document, organized by UNICEF, Cairo;

(c) XII Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, 4-8 April, New Delhi;

(d) Sixth Workshop of the International Women and Society Association, 10 April, Cairo;

(e) Asian Regional Seminar and NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, 4-7 May, Jakarta;

(f) Second Workshop on Technical and Institutional Funding of UNICEF NGOs, 21-22 May, Alexandria;

(g) First Popular Arab Forum, 17-24 July, Tripoli;

(h) Seminar on the Question of Palestine, 23-24 August, Geneva;

(i) European NGO Symposium and the United Nations International NGO Meeting on Palestine, 25-29 August, Geneva;

(j) Meeting of the Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America, Havana;

(k) Project of the Legal Awareness for Female Lawyers, 7-9 October, Cairo;

(l) Fifth International Conference of the International Arab Women's Solidarity Association, 11-13 October, Cairo;

(m) Twentieth General Assembly of CONGO, 3-5 November, Geneva;

(n) Fourth Conference on Solidarity and Cooperation in the Mediterranean Region, 28-30 November, Valletta;

(o) Project for extending financial and institutional support to non-governmental organizations. Topic on alleviating the burdens of poor women, 22-23 December, Aswan;

(p) Project to promote women's literacy: second training session for lawyers (women), 27-29 December, Ismailia and Assiut.

## 1998

AAPSO sent representatives to the following:

(a) Conference in Support of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People: Annual European NGO Symposium on the Question of Palestine, 23-26 February, Brussels;

(b) Special NGO Committee for Disarmament, 20-21 February, Geneva;

(c) International Conference on Human Rights Challenges in the 21st Century and the special session on "Cooperation among Developing Countries for the Realization of Human Rights", held to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of AAPSO, 5-6 March, New Delhi;

(d) Meeting of Arab Committees, March, Amman;

(e) Project for extending financial and institutional support to non-governmental organizations, meeting of the group on alleviating the burdens of poor women, sponsored by UNICEF, 10-11 March, Cairo;

(f) Conference "Breaking the Siege over the Great Jamaheria", 15-18 November, Tripoli;

(g) Fifteen Arab Committees Meeting, 20-25 November, Baghdad;

(h) International Conference on Terrorism: Threat to the 21st Century, 11-12 December, New Delhi.

## 1999

AAPSO representatives attended the following:

(a) United Nations African Meeting in Support of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, 20-22 April, Windhoek;

(b) Fifth Conference on Solidarity and Cooperation in the Mediterranean Region, 6-8 May, Aubagne (Marseille);

(c) The Hague Appeal for Peace Conference, 11-15 May;

(d) Conference on the Establishment of an Arab Network for Adult Education, organized by Arab Organization for Education, Culture and Science, 23-25 May, Cairo;

(e) International Conference on Immigrants in a Globalized World, 22-23 May, Madrid;

(f) Preparations for the Women's March on World Women Day, 13 June, Cairo;

(g) AAPSO mission to China, 15-22 June;

(h) Conference "Demolish the Concrete Wall Constructed by South Korea at the Border", 10-20 August, Pyongyang;

(i) Sixteenth Arab Committees Meeting, 20-21 September, Sana;

(j) International Conference of Solidarity with the Palestinian People for their Right of Self-Determination and Independence, 23-24 September, Athens;

(k) Meeting of Arab Unions and Organizations on the dangers threatening the city of Jerusalem, 27 September, Cairo;

(l) 1999 Seoul International Conference of NGOs: Role of NGOs in the 21st Century: Inspire, Empower, Act, 10-16 October, Republic of Korea;

(m) Second Meeting of NGOs in Defence of the City of Jerusalem, 18 October, Cairo;

(n) Seminar on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 10-13 October, Cairo;

(o) Seminar on Women's Perspectives from East and West, 18 October, Cairo;

(p) Third Meeting of Arab Unions and Organizations on the dangers threatening the city of Jerusalem, 8 November, Cairo;

(q) Conference on the 100th Anniversary of Arab Women's Emancipation, 23-28 October, Cairo;

(r) Consultations of the Bureau of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, with NGO representatives, 26-30 November, United Nations Headquarters;

(s) NGOs meeting in the Arab Women's Alliance, 12 December, Cairo;

(t) Fourth Meeting of Arab Unions and Organizations on the dangers threatening the city of Jerusalem, 30 January, Cairo.

## 2000

AAPSO representatives attended the following:

(a) The Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for establishing the Egyptian Women's Federation, 31 January, Cairo;

(b) Seminar on the Draft Egyptian personal status law, 5 January, Cairo;

(c) Seminar on the results of the Third Ministerial Meeting of World Trade Organizations in Seattle, February, Cairo;

(d) Commission on Human Rights, 20 March-28 April, Geneva;

(e) Seminar on Displaced Palestinians in the Diaspora, 30 March, Cairo;

(f) Seminar on Violence against Women, 3 April, Cairo;

(g) First Forum for the Elderly, organized by the National Centre in Support of Non-governmental Organizations for Population and Development, 29 March, Cairo;

(h) World Peace Council, 11-13 May, Athens;

(i) Workshop on the Egyptian Campaign against Poverty and Violence against Women, 18 May, Cairo;

(j) World Democratic Forum, 25 June, Warsaw;

(k) World Conference against A and H Bombs, 31 July-8 August, Hiroshima;

(l) Conference on the theme, "Vision of Culture in the 21st Century: Regeneration or Degeneration?", organized by AAPSO, 6-7 November, Cairo.

## 2. Asian Federation of Laryngectomees Associations

**Special consultative status granted in 1997**

Laryngectomees are people who have had their larynx removed as a result of laryngeal cancer and who breathe through a tracheostoma at the base of their throats. Laryngectomees are spoken-language disabled since removal of the vocal chords leaves them without a voice.

In accordance with resolution 37/52 (World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons), the Asian Federation of Laryngectomees Associations (Ginreikai) works to train instructors for esophageal speech rehabilitation and to create a basis for the promotion of full social participation by laryngectomees. The aim of the Federation is to provide opportunities to laryngectomees in the Asian region for vocalization rehabilitation and to assist as many laryngectomees as possible to regain their independence and to re-enter society.

Although the Federation has been continuously active over the past 15 years, since its establishment in 1985, 405 instructors have been trained since 1996, twice the number as in the previous reporting period, thus yielding particularly significant results. Over 10,000 laryngectomees, in 21 locations throughout Asia, are estimated to have achieved vocalization through training with these instructors.

### Participation in the United Nations meetings

Representatives of the Federation attended United Nations Day lectures, hosted by the United Nations Information Centre, Tokyo, on 25 October 1996. The director attended a lecture by the Secretary-General at United Nations University, Tokyo, on 11 November 1999. Representatives of the Federation attended the United Nations-sponsored exhibition, *Children's Hopes for a New Century*, held on 22 April 2000.

## 3. Egyptian Red Crescent Society

**Special consultative status granted in 1997**

The Egyptian Red Crescent Society (ERC) is a member of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and cooperates with its related regional organizations as well as national societies, Arab League Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. ERC works closely with the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva and Cairo.

### Aims and purposes

(a) **Disaster preparedness**: training of youth in disaster relief and first aid. ERC has in its branches strategic reserves of disaster relief materials and equipment.

(b) **Disaster response**: rehabilitation of disaster victims. ERC cooperates during wars with concerned authorities in assisting prisoners of war and civilian sufferers. It is involved in international relief activities through the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in affected areas.

(c) **Sustained social development for the most vulnerable**: especially women, children, youth and the elderly. All Red Crescent branches develop and implement social, health, environmental and income-generating programmes for the most vulnerable.

(d) **Dissemination of international humanitarian law and principles of the Red Cross movement**.

### Participation in the work of the Council

ERC attended the Habitat meeting in Istanbul (1997) on urban development, the HIV/AIDS meeting in Africa with UNAID in Burkina Faso (September 2000) and the meeting of Congo in Geneva (November 2000).

### Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

ERC works closely through joint projects with various United Nations organizations:

(a) **WHO**: ERC cooperates with WHO in the control of AIDS and drug abuse;

(b) **UNICEF**: ERC implements with UNICEF a project in sustained social development for the victims of the 1992 earthquake in Nahda city (Cairo), involving 20,000 families;

(c) **UNFPA**: ERC cooperates with UNFPA in the field of family planning;

(d) **UNHCR**: ERC cooperates with UNHCR in international relief activities;

(e) **Habitat**: Habitat has some joint programmes with ERC in the field of environmental protection.

### Other relevant activities

(a) **Youth**: ERC has special youth clubs in each of its branches. Its vocational activities include training in computer skills and language abilities as well as vocational rehabilitation. Cultural activities cover sports, reading, libraries, Internet and handicrafts. Special attention is given to combating illiteracy.

(b) **Women**: ERC establishes and supports women clubs for training in household skills, holding seminars on health, social, cultural, environmental and other matters and raising public awareness in child feeding, family planning, etc.

(c) **Health activities**: ERC promotes health through the mass media and seminars, etc. It provides medical services in remote areas, in 7 hospitals, 22 family planning clinics and 68 polyclinics. ERC is the only non-governmental organization involved in blood donation promotion and blood banking. It runs five blood banks all over Egypt.

(d) **Environmental promotion**: ERC raises public awareness of environmental pollution through seminars, youth activities and projects in schools.

(e) **Financial aid**: Through IFRC, ICRC and UNHCR, ERC has made financial and in-kind donations, between 1995 and 2000, amounting to US$ 12 million, to the countries most affected by disaster. ERC established a village for orphans in Mostar (Bosnia-Herzegovina) and at present is building a school in Pristina (Kosovo).

## 4. Learning for a Sustainable Future

**Special consultative status granted in 1997**

Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF) is a Canadian non-profit organization that has taken a leadership role nationally and internationally in promoting education about the knowledge, skills and values essential to a sustainable future. LSF's mission is to:

(a) Develop a strategic framework and tools for the integration of the concepts, content (knowledge, skills and values) and methodologies of learning for sustainability in policies of ministries of education, school curricula, teacher education and professional development;

(b) Facilitate and support the establishment of networks and partnerships of teachers, administrators, school boards, students, parents and other stakeholders in every Canadian province and territory, committed to processes of lifelong learning for a sustainable future.

LSF produces and distributes a wide range of classroom materials on issues of sustainability, gives workshops to educators across Canada, consults with ministries of education on curriculum policy and maintains a web site on issues of sustainability.

The organization is active internationally. Until mid 2000 the Executive Director acted as Chair of the North America/Caribbean section of the Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) of the World Conservation Union (IUCN)

and continues to be represented at meetings of that body. LSF also participates in meetings of the Center for Sustainable Education in the United States of America.

During the past four years, LSF has been active in pursuing its mandate of teacher workshops and materials development throughout Canada.

## 1997

LSF developed four new *case studies and "inquiries"* for teachers: *Sustainable Cities: Reflections on Today's Urban Environment, Canada's Freshwater: A Commodity for Export, a Resource for Conservation?, Sustaining Canada's Forests,* and *Agriculture and Agribusiness: The Search for Sustainable Food Production.*

LSF revamped and updated its web site in English and French and added more links to other web sites related to sustainable development and environmental education. All documents produced by LSF, including its "*inquiries*", are now on the site.

As the North American and Caribbean Chair of the Commission on Education and Communication (CEC), LSF's Executive Director prepared a three-year plan for CEC-North America/Caribbean, attended the CEC annual meeting in Gland, Switzerland, and several international meetings as a CEC representative. LSF co-chaired the Communication Planning for Inter-Sectoral Actions for Biodiversity Workshop at the Global Biodiversity Forum and participated in a meeting on the Basel Convention. In cooperation with IUCN/CEC, LSF presented a model for legislation on sustainable development to the parliamentarians from the Americas who met at the Parliamentary Conference of the Americas in Quebec City in September.

LSF actively participated in the Planèt'ERE forum, the first international Francophone forum on environmental education with a sustainable development perspective, held in Montreal in November. Around 750 delegates from more than 30 Francophone countries participated. The Montreal Declaration on environmental and sustainable development education is being widely circulated throughout the Francophone world and within United Nations organizations.

## 1998

LSF completed two new "*inquiries*" for teachers: *Sustainable Transportation* (in collaboration with the Centre for Sustainable Transportation); and *Energy: Making Sustainable Choices.*

LSF gave 29 sustainable development education workshops to more than 800 educators during which LSF documents were widely distributed. This brings the total of educators who have attended LSF workshops over the past four years to 2,900.

In cooperation with IUCN/CEC, LSF presented a model for legislation on sustainable development at the meeting of the Arctic Council on Sustainable Development, in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory.

The Executive Director travelled to Jamaica to conduct a workshop, Kits and Workshops on Environmental Education for Sustainable Development, and to

provide input for developing a proposal for a Jamaican kit and workshop within the context of Jamaica's National Plan on Environmental Education for Sustainable Development. Discussions were held with Jamaican authorities on the possible development of a similar strategy for the Caribbean.

## 1999

LSF cooperated with the Ontario Ministry of Education's Independent Learning Centre in the development and delivery of the grade-12, two-credit programme, The Hurley Island Project: Environmental Sustainability and Internet Technology. Canadian students from across Canada are exchanging views on local, national and global sustainability issues.

LSF wrote educational material on climate change for grades five to eight within the framework of the Development of an Education Strategy on Climate Change Project. The materials include: *A Guide for Teachers: Exploring the Issue of Climate Change at Levels Five and Six*; *Exploring the Issue of Climate Change at Levels Seven and Eight*; *The Question of Climate Change: Energy and the Way we Use it in Transportation*; *The Role of Forests and Oceans*; and *The Changing World of Business*. The publication of the educational materials was made possible by the contribution of the Climate Change Action Fund.

LSF participated in the Climate Change Conference/Trade Show held in Ottawa in June. LSF had a stand in the exhibition area to showcase its materials, and facilitated one of the workshops.

In recognition of its leadership effectiveness and broad base of support, LSF was chosen by EXPO 2000 as an international model project for sustainable development education.

LSF participated in a seminar on sustainable development education in Atlanta, Georgia, hosted by the Center for a Sustainable Future (CSF), LSF's American sister organization. LSF also participated in a two-day meeting at CSF, convened to create a North American Network for Sustainability Education. Twenty organizations were present.

As a follow-up to a mission of LSF and CEC/IUCN to Jamaica to advise the Government of Jamaica on implementing its strategy on environmental education for sustainable development, CEC/IUCN for North America and the Caribbean recommended that a similar strategy be developed for all of the Caribbean countries and that Jamaica lead the process.

## 2000

LSF hosted a kiosk in the Canadian Pavilion at EXPO 2000, the World Exposition in Hanover. The Executive Director participated in the opening ceremonies on 1 June.

LSF's Executive Director helped to prepare and participated in a two-day regional workshop in Kingston, Jamaica, hosted by Jamaica's National Environmental Education Committee and Natural Resources Conservation

Authority, in collaboration with LSF, the Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust and UNEP, and sponsored by the Canadian International Development Agency.

LSF participated on behalf of CEC/IUCN at the Salzburg Seminar on Education and Sustainable Agriculture at the Earth University in Costa Rica.

## 5. Light and Hope Association for Blind Girls (Al Nour Wal Amal Association)

**Special consultative status granted in 1997**

Basic to the aims and policy of the Light and Hope Association for Blind Girls is the development of new projects both for the well-being of blind girls, to provide new outlets to develop their skills and potential and to provide new sources of income for the Association and employment for blind girls. Nevertheless, the Association is always keen to develop and improve its already existing projects and services.

Significant improvement has been made in the quality of the products of the three main sections of the Vocational Centre of the Association. Its wickerwork, hand-made carpets and fashionable knitwear are now purchased for their quality and not only to help the Association. In 1998 a boutique for the products of the blind girls was established on the premises of the Association next to the main door, and this outlet for the Association's products has been very successful.

The Music Institute has seen new developments. The main orchestra (composed entirely of blind girls and women) performed in Canada (September 1998) and in Germany (September 1999), with great success. Several members of the orchestra are now happily married and living in their own homes.

A junior orchestra composed only of school girls is now competing with the main orchestra. Members of the junior orchestra can now perform with the main orchestra.

A third-generation orchestra, composed of elementary school girls, is being developed and is already in great demand. These children always reach the hearts of their audiences.

Constant efforts are being made by the Association to help in the education of the girls, besides the formal school education provided by the Ministry of Education on the premises of the Association.

Computers have been installed to print ordinary books in Braille. The audio-Braille library has been enlarged to provide space for the computer centre and for new specialized equipment for the visually impaired.

The kindergarten, which opened its doors in 1995 on new premises in Nasr City, is now a model kindergarten. New methods and specialized equipment for teaching blind children as well as specialized educational toys are constantly introduced. Boarding facilities are provided at the main centre for those children whose parents cannot bring them to school every day.

In 1998, the new Centre for Advanced Vocational Training was established at new premises in Nasr City to provide new skills and employment for the girls as

well as income generation on a larger scale for the Association. The Centre has three sections: a plastic manufacturing machine for different types and sizes of plastic bags; knitting machines for a variety of products such as blankets, shawls and school pullovers; and a sewing centre for high-demand products in large quantities such as bed sheets for hotels and hospitals, uniforms for nurses and hotel employees, and school uniforms.

## 6. Médecins sans frontières

**General consultative status granted in 1993**

1. Médecins sans frontières (MSF) is the world's largest independent organization for emergency medical relief. In its first 25 years of action, MSF established a worldwide reputation for providing quick and effective aid to those whose lives are put at risk by war or natural disaster. Médecins sans frontières is completely independent of all Governments and institutions, and of political, economic and religious influences. Consequently, MSF provides effective medical aid with or without the consent of the host Government, whereas other agencies sometimes cannot. Every year, around 2,000 MSF volunteers work alongside several thousand local staff on projects in some 80 countries. In addition to providing emergency relief aid, MSF speaks out about the systematic abuses of humanitarian law and human rights witnessed by its staff, often bringing injustice and malpractice to the world's attention.

MSF's international network is made up of 19 national sections; its international secretariat, based in Brussels, is responsible for coordinating the Geneva, and New York-based liaison activities with other international organizations and the United Nations, and for the fulfilment of MSF's consultative status to the Council.

MSF receives grants from international organizations and Governments for up to 51 per cent of its total resources, including 9-10 per cent from UNHCR. These funds are allocated to programmes in the following countries and areas: Afghanistan (a new hospital surgery unit), Angola (basic health care, repatriation of Angolan refugees), Armenia (emergency rehabilitation of health facilities), Burma/Thailand border (Myanmar refugees), Burundi, Goma (assistance in refugee camps), Guinea, Kenya, Somalia (Kismayo hospital), Chechnya, Sri Lanka (assistance to displaced populations), Congo/Zaire (emergency assistance to refugees).

Along with UNICEF and WHO, MSF created the International Coordination Group (ICG) in January of 1997. This four-year-long medical project, begun after the disastrous outbreaks of meningitis in 1995-1996 in West Africa, seeks to ensure better coordination in guaranteeing the availability of significant vaccine stocks for major epidemics.

## Participation in the work of the Council and other United Nations bodies

During the past five years, Médecins sans frontières participated, in New York and Geneva, in numerous meetings involving staff and officers of the United Nations Secretariat, agencies and member States of the United Nations.

From April 1994 to the present, MSF has been providing assistance in the Rwanda/Burundi/Congo area and extensively communicating with the United Nations departments, agencies, member States and, in particular, the Security Council, on the plight of the civilians in the region. The first of such meetings was in April 1994, when MSF's representatives met with Ambassador Keating of New Zealand, then President of the Security Council, to brief him about the breadth of massacres directly witnessed by MSF teams in Butare, Rwanda.

Throughout the Bosnia/ex-Yugoslavia crisis, from Vukovar (1991) to Gorazde (1994) and Srebrenica (1995), MSF made numerous contacts and held meetings with United Nations officials and member States. MSF expressed the frustration of relief teams regarding the situation in ex-Yugoslavia, provided first-hand testimony, and spelled out the humanitarian dilemma at every stage of the conflict.

On 25 and 26 July 1996, MSF's representatives met with various ambassadors of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to raise the humanitarian community's awareness of the situation in Liberia and the suffering of the civilian population in Monrovia.

In December 1996 and February 1997, MSF's representatives repeatedly addressed the Sub-Group on NGOs at the High-Level Working Group on the Strengthening of the United Nations System. Concerning Council decision 1996/297, the MSF delegate to the United Nations asked that the current levels of NGO affiliation and participation be extended beyond the Council.

On 12 February 1997, under the "Somavia formula" MSF, together with CARE, ICRC and OXFAM, was invited to brief the Security Council and member States of the Council, on the situation in the Great Lakes region. On that occasion, MSF representatives came directly from Bujumbura, Kigali and Kisangani to give first-hand accounts of the deteriorating situation in Burundi, Rwanda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

## Participation in the work of other relevant bodies

Médecins sans frontières representatives participated in numerous seminars and conferences, such as the Health Coordination in Emergency Situations (WHO, Geneva, March 1997), Inter-Agency Advisory Group on Refugee Health (UNHCR, November 1997), the New Emergency Health Kit (UNHCR, UNICEF, WHO and others), and the Conference on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court.

The MSF delegate to the United Nations in New York participates in the weekly meeting of the Inter-Agency Committee (IASC), chaired by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. IASC is the central humanitarian policy-making body in the United Nations system, with a mechanism by which joint decisions are taken on how best to respond to specific humanitarian crises. IASC members include the Office for the Coordination

of Humanitarian Affairs (United Nations Secretariat), UNHCR, UNDP, WFP, FAO, UNICEF, WHO, UNCHR, IOM, ICRC. Issues covered in these meetings include the provision of assistance and protection to internally displaced people, linking relief and development, strengthening system-wide accountability, monitoring and evaluation, the setting of priorities for advocacy campaigns and determining the allocation of responsibilities and operational responses to particular crises.

MSF also helps frame the agenda of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for its monthly meetings with InterAction members at Headquarters in New York. Similar meetings are held in Geneva. MSF also participates in the Executive Committee of UNHCR and its standing meetings. The situation of the refugees and displaced population has been regularly discussed at the highest level between the directors of MSF sections and UNHCR officials. Informal consultation and information exchange at every level takes place on a regular basis with MSF, its United Nations colleagues, donor countries and member States of the United Nations, both at Headquarters and in the field.

## 7. Union of Ibero American Capitals

**Special consultative status granted in 1989**

### Aims and purposes

The Union of Ibero American Capitals (UCCI) is an international, municipal, non-profit organization which assembles the 26 most important cities of Latin America and the Iberian Peninsula. The main aims and purposes are:

(a) To encourage links and relationship between the capital cities of Ibero America;

(b) To consider all matters concerning the life, activities and problems of its affiliated municipalities;

(c) To promote the rights of neighbourhoods (of the inhabitants of the member cities), especially the right to a more peaceful coexistence, and participation in public affairs, and the field of intermunicipal relations;

(d) To footer the balanced and harmonious development of the capital cities of Ibero America, striving for cooperation and solidarity among them;

(e) To organize meetings and other activities that will foster an effective exchange of experiences and knowledge.

### Participation in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies

(a) Meeting of mayors and other authorities of Latin America and the Caribbean, for the implementation of the Habitat Agenda, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, October 1997;

(b) VIII Meeting of the Network Association of Municipalities and Cities of Latin America, Miami, Florida, July 1998;

(c) Regional (Latin America and the Caribbean) meeting for the discussion of the World Charter of Local Self Government, Santiago, Chile, July 1999;

(d) Informative session for NGOs, United Nations Office at Geneva, November 1999.

## Cooperation with United Nations bodies

(a) Preparatory meeting for the Summit "Mayors for Peace" (UNESCO), La Paz, Bolivia, October 1998;

(b) Summit "Mayors for Peace" (UNESCO), La Paz, Bolivia, July 1999.

## Other relevant activities:

### International meetings

(a) Seminar of the European Union on International Cooperation for the Development of Democracy and Human Rights in Latin America, Madrid, Spain, February 1997;

(b) Symposium: The Latin America and Caribbean City in the New Century, Barcelona, Spain, March 1997;

(c) XV Congress of the World Federation of United Cities, Lille, France, June 1997;

(d) IV Ibero American Conference on the Family, Cartagena de Indias, Colombia, August 1997;

(e) 1st International Seminar of the European Union Programme on "Cities and Drugs", Santiago, Chile, November 1997;

(f) Summit of Culture Executives of the "Mercociudades" Network. Buenos Aires, Argentina, May 1998;

(g) Interamerican Mayors Conference, Miami, Florida, July 1998;

(h) Seminar: "Spain in Democracy", Madrid, August 1998;

(i) Ibero American Cities Meeting for the Right of Health, Buenos Aires, October 1998;

(j) Meeting of the World Federation of United Cities, Seville, Spain, January 1999;

(k) XXXVI Congress of the International Union of Local Authorities, Barcelona, Spain, March 1999;

(l) VII Conference on Urban Superprojects: Global Cities of the XXI Century, Madrid, May 1999;

(m) Intermunicipal Congress on Consumption: Priorities for the Protection of Consumers, Madrid, May 1999;

(n) Summit of Ibero American Cities, Lima, October 1999.